

CHAPTER 15. "THE MAGNIFICENCE OF ITS LOCATION," 1907-1915

Plans and Developments

Before the 1906 earthquake occurred, the War Department had decided that a new permanent post for eight companies of the Coast Artillery should be established on the western part of the Presidio reservation where the artillerymen would be closer to the modern coastal batteries. The infantry would dominate the eastern portion of the reserve. Even before the earthquake, the Quartermaster General Brig. Gen. Charles F. Humphrey, who years earlier had inventoried the Presidio buildings, had debated whether to build the new post according to standard plans or to employ the "Spanish Mission Style." In view of the situation in San Francisco, however, he recommended that construction at Fort Winfield Scott be deferred and that the funds (\$245,000) be used elsewhere.¹

Back in 1876 the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, hosted the centenary of American independence, the first international fair in the United States. The New England exhibit illustrated Colonial Revival architecture. This innovation reached California in the 1880s where architects adapted the concept to the state's architectural heritage, the mission era: "The arcades of Stanford University and Arthur Benton's Mission Inn at Riverside attested to the vitality of Mission Revival in the late 1880s and early 1890s."² The Army's decision to break from tradition and accept Mission Revival for the new post and future construction at the Presidio received additional support in 1907.

In 1906, just before the earthquake, a remarkable army engineer, Maj. William W. Harts, became a staff officer at the Pacific Division headquarters. Following the earthquake and his considerable contributions to the relief of the stricken city, Harts prepared an exhaustive study, "Report Upon the Expansion and Development of the Presidio of San Francisco, California," which he completed in January 1907. While calling for a fresh approach to army architecture, he only alluded to the Mission Revival style at that time:

It is well known...that the architecture of government buildings on military posts has in the past unfortunately always been of a needlessly plain character...the style of buildings used has been intended to conform to some old adopted pattern rather than to meet the needs of the site, the comfort of the occupants or the requirements of the climate.



Field officers' quarters to the west of the officers' club at the southwest corner of the old parade ground. Scheduled for demolition following the 1906 earthquake, the building survived until at least the 1920s. It stood in line with the officers' club, 50, just west of it, facing northeast. The west walk of the officers' club is visible on the far left. *National Archives photograph.*

As to the character of buildings to be constructed, it would seem thoroughly desirable to select buildings of some better architectural design rather than use the old stock patterns followed so long.

San Francisco's climate should be considered — neither extremely cold nor hot. Buildings should not be over two stories in height and officers' quarters should be arranged to get the best effect of the sun.

The buildings, I believe, should all be masonry, either brick, stone, or concrete ...the officers' quarters should purposely be varied as much as practical....It would be desirable to have all buildings of the same general color and same general style of architecture....

The brick barracks which are already in existence...would not harmonize with [concrete] barracks and should be plastered. All roofs should be red tile thus producing a fine combination with the concrete.



1906 map of the Presidio prepared by Major Harts. National Archives, Record Group 92. NPS drawing no. 641-20497.

Further critiquing army architecture, Harts wrote that skillful, competent civilian architects should prepare the designs.³

A few months later an architect from the Philadelphia firm of Rankin, Kellog, and Crane arrived in California prior to planning and designing new buildings and structures for an Army Supply Depot at Fort Mason. The visiting architect first inspected the San Gabriel Mission in Southern California, "to gather whatever information relative to the architecture that might in his judgement be advantageously applied to the Fort Mason work." He attempted to visit the Santa Barbara Mission also but heavy rains made that impossible.⁴

At the same time Major Harts gave thought to a new "mission style," concrete, red tile roof, army headquarters building at Fort Mason, the division and department both still occupying temporary facilities at the Presidio. That summer a third voice weighed in in favor of Mission Revival for the future. Maj. Carroll A. Devol, who recently had been the depot quartermaster at San Francisco and was now assigned to the Office of the Chief of Staff in Washington, made an inspection trip to San Francisco. After reviewing the drawings for the Supply Depot, he wrote, "The plan of the buildings in the old Spanish style with tile roofs appears to be a good one, and the plant should be an ornament to the Pacific Coast."⁵ Thus, the stage was set for the introduction of Mission Revival architecture at Fort Mason, the future Fort Winfield Scott, and elsewhere in the Bay Area.

Major Harts' report, which may be regarded as the Presidio's first comprehensive master plan, described the strategic importance of the reservation:

It is a site of a great beauty and is probably excelled by no other military post in the world in the magnificence of its location and in its commanding position. It guards the entrance to one of the largest and safest seaports of the world. It embraces an area of...nearly 2 1/2 square miles...and has within its boundaries elevations as high as 380 feet. By reason of its superb location and command of the harbor entrance, it is admirably situated as a defensive position for the protection of an important harbor and base. Its great natural beauty is seldom appreciated.⁶

He described the terrain as being divided into three parts by ridges. A north-south ridge on which the national cemetery was located separated the coastal batteries from the main post. An east-west ridge separated these two from the Marine Hospital and the area formerly used as golf links (temporarily occupied by a refugee camp). Harts proposed to replace the main



post area with a brigade post having facilities for two infantry regiments, one cavalry regiment, three light artillery batteries, and a battalion of engineers. He concluded that the existing East and West cantonments had no real value, being but slightly better than tents. West of the ridge an independent post near the fortifications would house 20 companies of coast artillerymen. The U.S. Army General Hospital would move to the south boundary of the reservation near the First Avenue (Arguello) gate, while the rest of the southern area would be held in reserve for a wartime mobilization camp with a capacity of five regiments. The Marine Hospital would go elsewhere. If the Harts plan was accepted, the artillery post, brigade post, and general hospital would have a total complement of 310 officers, 9,833 enlisted men, 2,667 horses, 177 wagons with teams, and 352 buildings.⁷

Before the earthquake the eminent architect Daniel H. Burnham had visited San Francisco to assist in its "Improvement and Adornment." On at least one occasion, in 1904, he went to the Presidio and met with the commanding officer, Col. Charles Morris, and discussed the beautification of the reservation. The 1906 earthquake interrupted Burnham's plans for the city, but he later returned to the Bay Area. Many of his concepts were disregarded in the rush to rebuild, but his influence is evident today in the beautiful Civic Center and the handsome Park Presidio Boulevard that joins the Presidio and Golden Gate Park. Burnham also prepared a plan and recommendations for the beautification of the Presidio itself, which Harts included in his report:

In view of the growing importance of the Presidio, and of its natural topographical advantages, everything possible should be done, with government cooperation, to make it a monument to the United States Army.

[The plan] includes the enlargement of the present parade and the location of post headquarters centrally on its main axis, also the creation of a vast drill ground [in the Lower Presidio]....

It is proposed also to create a great terrace on the west commanding the unrivaled view of the Golden Gate.⁸

Harts too envisioned a vast drill ground in the Lower Presidio and the relocation of the life-saving station from that area to the Pacific shore. He said that the lower ground collected large shallow lakes in the rainy season making it disagreeable and unhealthy. He proposed a concrete retaining wall along the bay shore and reclaiming the area by filling. The east end nearest Lyon Street would contain a large complex of stables and a corral. At present the area had little value; reclaimed, the land would be worth \$2.6 million.⁹

Report of Major Harris PLATE 2.

PLAN OF THE
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.
TREATMENT SUGGESTED BY
Mr. D. H. Burnham, Architect.
Designed in connection with the plans for the beautification of
San Francisco
1905



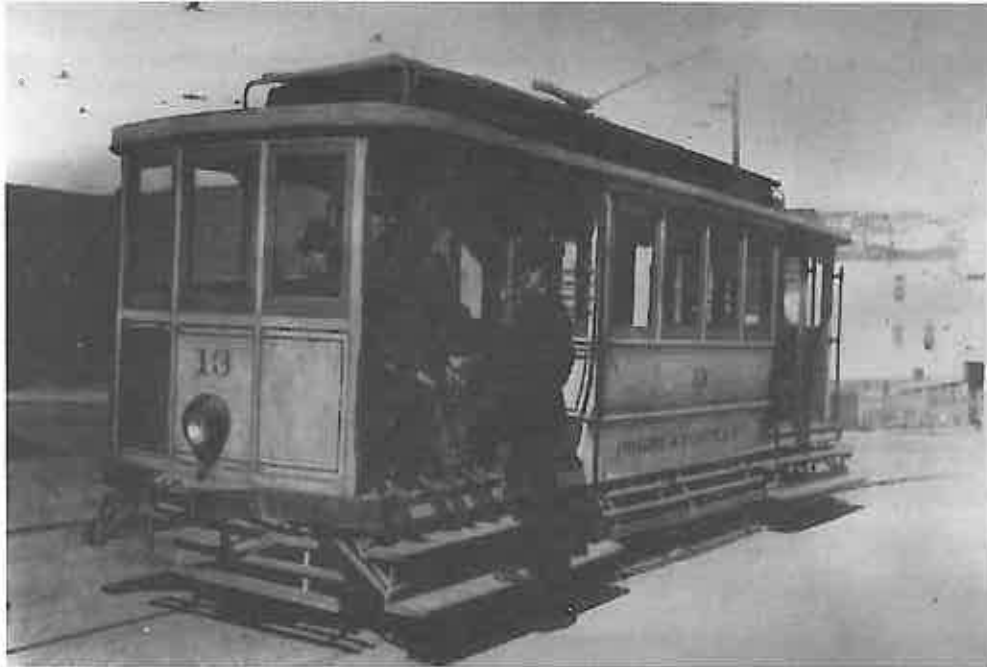
National Archives, Record Group 92.



San Francisco Municipal Railway electric streetcar No. 320 below East (Presidio) Terrace officers' quarters in 1915. This particular car was owned and operated by the Presidio and Ferries Railroad, 1906-1912, then sold to the Municipal Railway. Note the "quick lunch" stand to the left of the station. It was actually a wagon whose body was stabilized by post foundations. *Postcard Collection, Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

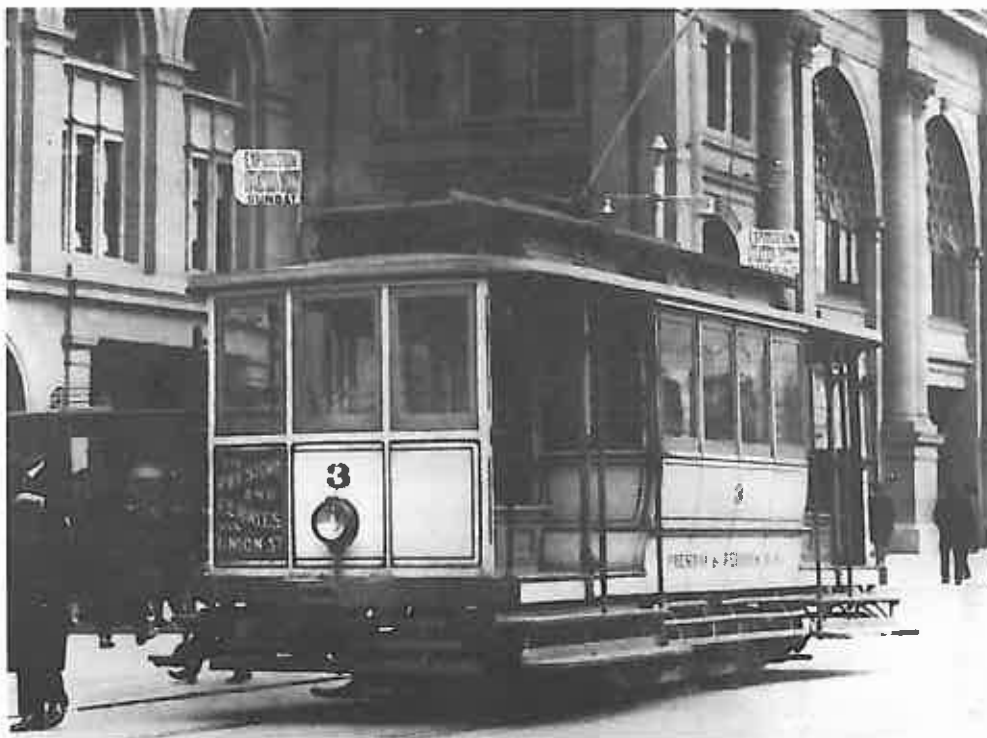
Other elements in Harts' designs called for the elimination of fences in residential areas, remodeling the quarry near Greenwich Street into an athletic field with spectator seating on the slopes, increasing the height of the masonry boundary wall by adding an iron fence 4 1/2 feet high along the wall to exclude trespassers and restrain escaping stock, extending the cable railroad that entered at Greenwich Street to the Lower Presidio where it would parallel the south side of the proposed drill ground. ("Since the earthquake, it appears that the Presidio & Ferries R. R. Co. propose to operate their lines in the future by electricity.")¹⁰

Between January 1907 and mid-1912, when Fort Winfield Scott became a separate and independent post, the Presidio's strength grew steadily. In January 1907, 46 officers and 1,484 men reported for duty. In May 1912 these figures had increased to 72 officers and 2,129 enlisted men. At the beginning of the period the garrison consisted of two companies of infantry, three batteries of field artillery, eight companies of coast artillery, and four troops of cavalry. By 1912 the field artillery units had transferred, the cavalry remained at four troops for patrolling the national parks, while both the infantry and coast artillery had grown to about 10 compa-



Above: Electric streetcar No. 13, owned and operated by the Presidio and Ferries Railroad from 1906 to 1912. In 1912, the San Francisco Municipal Railway purchased the car for its own use. Collection of Gordon Chappell.

Below: Electric streetcar No. 3. It was owned and operated by the Presidio and Ferries Railroad from 1906 until 1912, when it was purchased by the San Francisco Municipal Railway. Collection of Gordon Chappell.



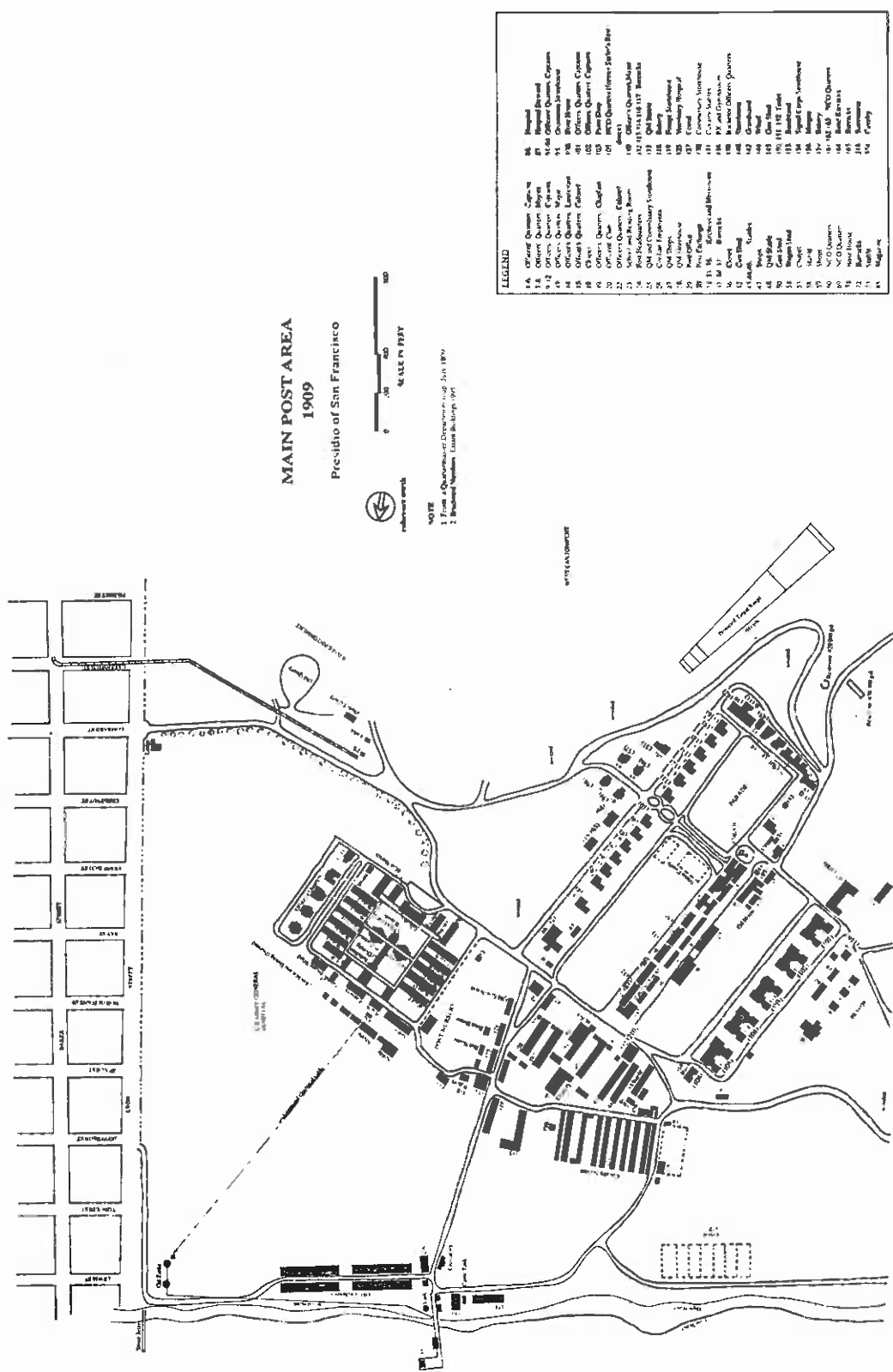
nies each. Of the several infantry regiments assigned to the Presidio during the period, the arrival of the 30th Infantry in the summer of 1909 caused considerable new construction at the main post.¹¹

Before then new construction resulted in improvements in several areas of the Presidio. In 1907-1908 the construction quartermaster completed work on a new wharf (984) at Fort Point where army engineers were constructing a submarine mine depot. Called the Torpedo Wharf, it measured 20 feet by 250 feet with an ell 40 feet by 80 feet. The cost amounted to \$6,782. Other construction in 1908 included a bridge over Lobos Creek near the water pumping plant (\$1,347); a Signal Corps storehouse and shed near the Presidio wharf (\$3,300); and a bandstand at the main post (\$483).

In 1908 the Coast Artillery pointed out that a new seawall, 500 feet in length, extending from the granite-block seawall the engineers had built to protect the fort at Fort Point to the new torpedo wharf, was required. The granite seawall remained in good shape but the old timber bulkhead extending eastward had rotted out. A year later the post quartermaster estimated that a concrete seawall's cost would be about \$21,000. Another year passed and the Engineer Department stated that if the Quartermaster Department did not build the wall, then the engineers should take steps to protect the submarine mine depot. All good things take time and in 1917 the Engineer Department allotted \$20,000 to construct the wall.¹²

The Presidio staff discussed Major Harts' recommendation that the swamp in the Lower Presidio be filled. At the end of 1908 the post quartermaster pointed out the quick rate of erosion occurring along the 7,000 feet of shoreline from the seawall at Fort Point to Lyon Street. A fill in this area would add 392 acres suitable for a drill field and for stables. Six months later an inspector general agreed but pointed out that such a project would entail considerable expense. Five years would pass before this project became a reality.¹³

In January 1908 General Funston penned a lengthy letter outlining the barracks situation at all the Bay Area posts. He described conditions at the Presidio, thus providing a rare glimpse of the disposition of the troops. He said that two batteries of the field artillery were well quartered (in the two-story wood-frame barracks 86 and 87?). The third battery shared a brick barracks with a company of coast artillery. Most of the coast artillery troops occupied the five brick barracks; because these companies were increasing in size, the barracks had become greatly overcrowded. One company of coast artillerymen, however, occupied the temporary





Above: Warehouse 983, built in 1908 and used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and located near the mine wharf, Fort Winfield Scott. The building to the right was number 982, a dispatch office at one time, demolished at some time after 1975. Warehouse 983 is extant. The photograph is circa 1940. *Quartermaster Building Record Books, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Below: Submarine mine depot pier, first called the torpedo wharf, constructed at Fort Winfield Scott, 1907-1908. The rails were for transporting mines. Most of the rails are still in place, though buried under as much as six or eight inches of asphalt. Circa 1930s view toward the north. *Collection of Col. Milton B. Halsey, Jr.*



"shed barracks" on the bluff behind Fort Point, and two companies occupied some of the 12 temporary buildings in West Cantonment. Also living at West Cantonment were the School of Bakers and Cooks, the Hospital Company of Instruction, and the offices of the Department of California. A signal company was expected at the Presidio and it too would be quartered at the West Cantonment. The garrison's cavalry troops occupied the 12 barracks at East Cantonment, which he described as "comfortable," but their kitchens and latrines allowed "rain, dust, and wind to enter, and they are dark within and congested and unsightly without." Funston recommended a plan be evolved for the permanent quartering and housing of the cavalry troops.¹⁴

The department quartermaster inspected the Presidio buildings in 1909. He noted that 12 mess kitchens had been built in East Cantonment at a cost of \$16,300, but the latrines and bathhouses remained unsatisfactory. Concerning the brick barracks at the main post, the basement lavatories had wet floors and all the plaster walls and ceilings were dirty and needed retinting. All five were overcrowded and even the unfinished attics had become barracks; they lacked adequate lighting and ventilation and a fire exit. He inspected the wood-frame barracks [682] that Funston had overlooked. He said that the 65th Company Coast Artillery Corp (CAC) occupied it. The building needed paint and some flooring required renewing.

The inspector thought the new post bakery [228] was efficient. It had cost \$11,555. The brick walls, however, had serious cracks from settling. It appeared that the foundations had not been secured and that the building stood partly on fill. He inspected the road entering the reservation from Lombard Street. It was the principal route for wagons and teams and consequently always in need of repair. He recommended that it be paved with concrete and bitumen similar to city streets from the gate, past the general hospital, to the hay house.¹⁵

Probably the result of this inspection, the Army built two new brick barracks at the main post in 1909. At the south end of the row of brick barracks an attractive, two-and-a-half story, U-shaped building [100] cost \$62,300; and at the north end of the row a smaller barracks [106] costing \$17,500 took shape as the new home for the 3d Band, CAC. The Army built a third barracks [35] at the main post in 1912 at the northeast corner of the original parade (the "lower" parade ground), where the two barracks moved from Fort Point once stood. This three-story, concrete building, complete with mess facilities and the largest structure yet at the main post was planned to be the permanent quarters for the four troops of cavalry still at East Cantonment.¹⁶



Above: Cavalry barracks 35, from a postcard mailed April 1914 when it was still a barracks. View toward the northeast. *National Park Service.*

Below: In 1919 the barracks was converted to offices for the headquarters, Ninth Corps Area. Both photographs were taken before additions and alternations were made. *Postcard Collection, Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*





Noncommissioned staff quarters on Riley Avenue occupied by senior sergeants and their families. From left to right: gymnasium, 122, and quarters 124, 125 and 126. These were the first permanent quarters for noncommissioned officers at the Presidio, erected in 1909. Circa 1915 view toward northeast. *Presidio Museum Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

For the first time in its history, the Presidio of San Francisco provided permanent housing for its senior noncommissioned officers in 1909. Three brick duplexes were built parallel to and west of the brick barracks. Sgt. James Smith, Regimental Commissary Sergeant, 30th Infantry Regiment, submitted a request on October 13 for one of these quarters then nearing completion. They were first numbered as in the leftmost column:

| | | | | |
|-----|------|----|---------|--------------------|
| 161 | then | 68 | finally | 124 |
| 162 | | 69 | | 125 |
| 163 | | 70 | | 126. ¹⁷ |

The concept of the eastern portion of the Presidio becoming an infantry post advanced a step in August 1909 with the arrival of the 1st and 2d Battalions of the 30th Infantry Regiment. The infantrymen arrived by harbor vessel at the Presidio wharf on August 12. A Presidio command composed of the 3d Band, CAC, and four companies of coast artillery troops greeted the 30th and escorted the regiment to the West Cantonment. The regiment would remain at the Presidio for three years until transferring to the Territory of Alaska in 1912.

While the companies of the 30th went into garrison at the West Cantonment, it was probably the regiment's complement of 25 officers, including Col. Charles St. John Chubb, that led to the construction of a handsome group of officers' quarters later called Infantry Terrace.¹⁸ Built between 1909 and 1911, the 21 residences formed a double horseshoe or a sideways S on a prominence south of and overlooking the main post:

| Current No. | Type | Walls | Cost | Completed |
|----------------|--------|----------|----------|----------------|
| 325 | duplex | concrete | \$15,110 | June 5, 1911 |
| 326 | duplex | concrete | 15,179 | June 5, 1911 |
| 327 | duplex | concrete | 15,470 | June 5, 1911 |
| 328 | duplex | concrete | 15,892 | June 5, 1911 |
| 329 | duplex | concrete | 15,185 | June 5, 1911 |
| 330 | duplex | concrete | 16,528 | June 28, 1910 |
| 331 | single | concrete | 11,774 | June 28, 1910 |
| 332 | single | brick | 11,774 | June 28, 1910 |
| 333 | single | brick | 11,774 | June 28, 1910 |
| 334 | single | concrete | 9,357 | June 28, 1910 |
| 335 | duplex | concrete | 16,528 | June 28, 1910 |
| 336 | single | concrete | 9,356 | June 28, 1910 |
| 337 | single | concrete | 9,375 | June 28, 1910 |
| 338 | duplex | concrete | 16,528 | June 28, 1910 |
| 339 | single | concrete | 9,357 | June 28, 1910 |
| 340 | single | concrete | 9,357 | June 28, 1910 |
| 341 | single | brick | 13,484 | March 31, 1911 |
| 342 | single | brick | 11,774 | June 28, 1910 |
| 343 | single | concrete | | June 28, 1910 |
| 344 | duplex | concrete | | June 28, 1910 |
| 345 | duplex | concrete | | June 28, 1910 |

Field grade† officers (major-colonel) occupied the single quarters; company grade officers (lieutenant-captain) shared the duplexes; and the Presidio's commanding officer lived in current building 341. All the quarters had red tile roofs and the architectural style has been described as having some simple classical elements with Mediterranean Revival detailing. The total cost of the project amounted to \$273,784.¹⁹

A 1909 inspection report noted that the Presidio was lighted with mineral oil, but it recommended electric illumination. A few Presidio buildings had been supplied with electricity before 1912, but that year an electric lighting system was completed for the entire post. Other construction in this period included a 6-million-gallon, reinforced concrete reservoir [313] on



Above: Officers' quarters at Infantry Terrace, Presidio of San Francisco. Built between 1909 and 1911. View toward the southwest U.S. Army Air Service photograph, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Below: Officers' row, Infantry Terrace. View toward the northeast, circa 1930. Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.





Above: Officers' quarters, Infantry Terrace, circa 1915. *Presidio Museum Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Below: Another view of the Infantry Terrace quarters. From left to right: 345, 344, 343 and 342. View toward the southwest. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, 1992.*





Above: Regimental commanding officer's quarters, 341, Infantry Terrace. After 1912, this residence housed the colonel who commanded both the regiment and the post. East and north elevations. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, 1992.*

Below: Duplex officers' quarters, 329 and 328, Infantry Terrace. View toward the north. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, 1992.*





Quatermaster storehouse, 222, on Halleck Street. Completed September 1910. Later this became a military court building. North and west elevations. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, June 1989.*

Presidio Hill. Completed in 1912, the 200-foot by 400-foot by 14-foot reservoir cost \$41,950. Its purpose was a water supply for the new Fort Winfield Scott then nearing completion. A valve house [310], associated with it, built with hollow tile, was completed at the same time.²⁰

A 1909 description of the cavalry stables in the Lower Presidio painted an ugly picture. The buildings were mere shells, open, without doors. The mangers were in poor shape and the galvanized iron feed boxes unfit for use. Located on low marshy ground the stable floors were frequently under water in winter, and the unpaved yards were too low for drainage. An officer described the picket line as standing on an island. These conditions combined with the preparation of the Lower Presidio area for the forthcoming exposition, resulted in the completion of five substantial, brick stables having slate roofs in 1913–1914. Each 67-foot by 185-foot building had a capacity of 102 animals. Now numbered 661, 662, 663, 667, and 668, the last of these, building 668, became a veterinary hospital having a capacity of 61 animals.²¹

The Presidio acquired two more storehouses in 1910, both toward the south end and on the east side of Halleck Street. Current building 222, a concrete structure, was designated a quartermaster storehouse but was more familiarly called the paint shop. The other, smaller building, made of brick [225] was designated a root house.²²

In 1915 when Maj. Gen. Arthur Murray commanded the Western Division with headquarters in San Francisco, he informed the various posts in the Bay Area that they should all be uniform in their paint colors. He directed that the appropriate colors consist of dark red roofs, bronze-green walls, and white trimmings. To what extent these colors were used remains unknown. General Murray retired five months later.²³

Military Exercises

The years between the 1906 Earthquake and World War I saw intensified training and increased professionalism in the Presidio's forces. The Army at large initiated exercises in combined maneuvers and large-unit training so far as budgets allowed.²⁴ Both the Presidio's field artillery and cavalry regularly carried out three-day practice marches. In August 1907, for instance, the 1st, 9th, and 24th Batteries of Field Artillery and G and H Troops, 14th Cavalry, carried out a three-day practice march to San Bruno and San Mateo south of San Francisco. A month later the field artillery departed the Presidio to march to Sargents, California, 194 miles, to carry out its annual artillery target practice.²⁵

In 1904 the U.S. Army had developed the Departmental Rifle Range at Fort Barry north of the Golden Gate. From then on all army units in the Bay Area, including the Presidio's Coast Artillery, camped at the range once a year to increase the proficiency in small arms target practice. Each contingent camped in tents at Rodeo Valley for three weeks. By 1908 the Army held nationwide rifle competition. That year the Presidio sent two men to Vermont to try out for the cavalry team. Special orders† directed Sgt. Nicholas E. Thornton, Troop H, and Pvt. William H. Spree, Troop E, 14th Cavalry, to proceed to Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont, for duty in connection with the selection of a cavalry team in the competition to be held at Camp Perry, Ohio, in August, for the National Trophy and other prizes.²⁶

Atascadero, California, became the favorite site for the army troops to engage in target practice and maneuvers. Located 225 miles from the Presidio, it lay just south of Bradley on today's Highway 101.²⁷ In August 1908 the 2d Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, marched out of the



Above: A field artillery battery of 3.2-inch breech-loading guns assembled near the guardhouse, 210, and prepared for a practice march, circa 1910. Band barracks 106 is visible at the upper left. View toward the north. *Presidio Museum Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Below: Maneuver camp at Fort Winfield Scott, circa 1915. Alcatraz Island is in the distance. *Presidio Museum Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*



Presidio (five officers, 317 enlisted men, 322 horses, 12 field guns, 10 Medical Reserve Corps [doctors], three enlisted men of the Hospital Corps, one veterinarian, one ambulance, seven escort wagons, and 32 mules) en route to Atascadero for target practice and maneuvers:

| | | | |
|------------|----------------------------|-------|---------------------|
| August 19. | Presidio to San Bruno | 19.5 | miles |
| 20. | San Bruno to Mayfield | 17.1 | miles |
| 21. | Mayfield to San Jose | 14.9 | miles |
| 22. | San Jose to Morgan Hill | 23.9 | miles |
| 23. | Morgan Hill to Sargent | 16.5 | miles |
| 24. | Sargent to Watsonville | 18.8 | miles |
| 25. | Watsonville to Castroville | 22.6 | miles |
| 26. | Castroville to Chuslar | 20.6 | miles |
| 27. | Chuslar to Soledad | 16.3 | miles |
| 28. | Soledad to King City | 19.3 | miles |
| 29. | Saturday | | |
| 30. | King City to San Ardo | 20.4 | miles |
| 31. | San Ardo to Bradley | 15.0 | miles |
| | Total | 224.9 | miles ²⁸ |

That same year the Presidio's Company E, Signal Corps (two officers, 69 men, and 77 horses) left the post on detached service for American Lake, Washington State, for training and support.²⁹ No sooner had it returned to the Presidio when it received orders for Atascadero along with the 2d Squadron, 14th Cavalry. Both units joined the field artillery already there.

While the Coast Artillery troops held their target practice at the coastal batteries, they too had annual training away from the guns. In October 1908 they had their annual two-week encampment on the reservation immediately in rear of the batteries, living in tents. Usually the coast artillery troops of the California National Guard joined in this training. In 1911 the Coast Artillery Corps from the Presidio and Forts Miley and Baker formed the 4th Provisional Regiment, Coast Artillery Corps, and camped on the Presidio's artillery parade ground in front of the brick barracks and near the brick guardhouse. They organized into three battalions and for 10 days received instruction in Field Service.³⁰

Training of a different sort occurred in August 1910 when the 60th and 147th Companies, Coast Artillery Corps, traveled to the vicinity of Colfax, Forresthill, and Auburn in the Sierra foothills to fight forest fires. Their efforts involved the use of dynamite. Both outfits returned to the Presidio after six weeks in the field.³¹

Bakers and cooks were not exempt from the marches. The Presidio's Training School of Bakers and Cooks learned well the routes to Atascadero and American Lake where they continued their training in camps of instruction while preparing meals for the encampments.

Theodore Roosevelt has been given credit for demanding that officers of the Regular Army undergo an annual "hundred-mile-ride physical endurance test." In August 1909 Capt. Charles B. Drake, 14th Cavalry, led a detachment to establish a camp near the Burlingame Country Club south of San Francisco for officers taking the test ride. Col. John A. Lundeen had to relinquish his command of the Presidio for three days in order to undergo the test. Presumably he passed.³²

In January 1911 a clerk made an entry on the Post Returns that presaged the Presidio's future:

The 2d Battalion, 30th Infantry, 12 officers, 205 enlisted men, 1 medical officer and 2 enlisted Men Hospital Corps, Major P. O'Neil, 30th Infantry commanding, left Post A.M. Jan. 6, 1911, en route to aviation Field (Selfridge Park) South San Francisco, Cal. for duty in connection with military experiments conducted during the meet. Arrived at Park January 6, 1911. Struck camp January 26, 1911. Arrived at Post Jan. 26.³³

This early air meet near San Francisco witnessed several developments in the early history of aviation in the United States including the Army's carrying out its first airplane reconnaissance exercise, an aircraft's landing on and taking off from a naval ship, the dropping of an aerial bomb by the Presidio's Lt. Myron C. Crissy, CAC, and the first successful test of wireless sending a message from the air. One account said that pandemonium erupted in the grandstands when the 30th Infantry soldiers, camped on the infield, attempted to do battle with invading aircraft. The spectators declared the aircraft the victors.³⁴

In 1911 the marches of the garrison assumed a more serious note. Mexico was in the throes of a revolution and concern grew that war with Mexico might ensue. Brig. Gen. Tasker H. Bliss, commanding the Pacific Division, received orders to have 30 days' supplies packed and readied for transport without attracting public attention. He formed a provisional brigade and established it on the California-Mexico border. In February the Presidio's cavalry squadron headed south:

Troop A, 1st Cavalry, left for Yuma, Arizona
Troop B, 1st Cavalry, left for Nogales, Arizona



A last view of the Presidio. The 30th Infantry Regiment aboard U.S. Army Transport *Sheridan*, June 1, 1912. The regiment transferred from the Presidio of San Francisco to Alaska. At the same time, the 16th Infantry Regiment from Alaska arrived at the Presidio. *National Park Service*.

Troop C, 1st Cavalry, left for Calexico, California
Troop D, 1st Cavalry, left for Yuma, Arizona

In March the Presidio's 30th Infantry Regiment (20 officers and 467 enlisted men) boarded trains for San Diego. The Training School for Bakers and Cooks soon followed. Not to be left behind, Company E, Signal Corps, departed, also for Yuma.³⁵

At the same time the 30th Infantry returned, a contingent of the Presidio's coast artillery troops left for San Diego where they engaged in night target practice at Fort Rosecrans' coastal batteries.

During the first decades of the twentieth century the U.S. Army endeavored to mobilize large numbers of troops to be employed in the event of national emergencies. At the Presidio in 1912 the "mobile army" stationed at the post and consisting of the 30th Infantry, four troops of the 1st Cavalry, a Signal Corps company, and a field bakery, marched to Fort Winfield Scott where it encamped. An inspector general inspected the troops in field service on April 11.³⁶

In May 1912 the Presidio's strength stood at more than 2,000 men. A month later fewer than 400 soldiers composed the garrison. The Post Returns contained the following historic remark, "On June 19, 1912, the separation of Fort Winfield Scott from the Presidio of San Francisco, Calif., as an independent fort, was effected, all Coast Artillery at the Presidio...taking station at Fort Winfield Scott, per GO11, Western Division, June 18, 1912." In addition, the entire 30th Infantry Regiment transferred to Alaska.

The barracks remained empty for only a brief time. In July army transports entered San Francisco Bay bearing the 6th Infantry Regiment from the Philippine Islands and the 16th Infantry Regiment fresh from Alaska. Once again the Presidio became primarily an infantry post. The Mexican border continued to be a matter of concern and as early as August the garrison participated in the "Maneuver Campaign," a two-week exercise.³⁷

During the next two years the Presidio participated in a multitude of training exercises, camps of instruction, practice marches, field maneuvers, and target practice. In December 1913 the 12th Infantry Regiment arrived at the post while the cavalry squadron transferred to the Presidio of Monterey. In January 1914 Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing returned to San Francisco to take command of the Presidio's 8th Brigade, composed of the three infantry regiments.³⁸

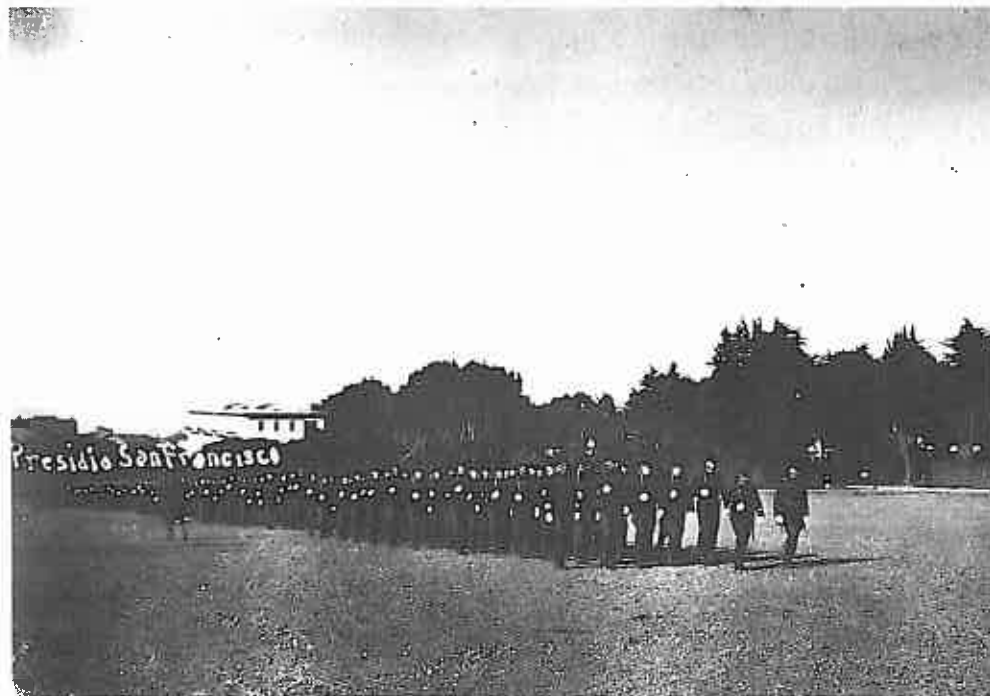
On March 17, 1914, General Pershing reviewed the 8th Brigade and on the following three days inspected each regiment in full field equipment. On March 21 the brigade marched to South San Francisco, encamped, then returned to the Presidio on March 23. On April 9, Mexican officials seized an American naval launch at Tampico harbor. Twelve days later fighting broke out between a United States shore party and Mexican forces. Secretary of War Lindley Garrison stated to the press on April 23, "The three regiments of Infantry at the Presidio of San Francisco will report to General Bliss, together with some artillery from Fort Riley."

Pershing and the 8th Brigade departed for duty on the southern border of the United States the next day. The 6th and 16th Infantry headed for El Paso, Texas, and the 12th Infantry for Nogales, Arizona. That same year Europe was at war. It would not be long before the Presidio would again be involved in military preparedness on a scale much greater than before.³⁹



Above: Company K, 6th U.S. Infantry Regiment, in full dress uniform, 1912. The regiment arrived at the Presidio that year from the Philippines. *J. D. Givens, Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Below: Infantry on parade in dress uniform, Presidio of San Francisco. Believed to be 1914. *National Park Service.*



Corporals, Captains, and Colonels

Many Californians had deep-rooted prejudice against Asian immigration in the latter half of the nineteenth century. This attitude resulted in the exclusion of Chinese immigrants in the 1880s, which caused an increase of Japanese laborers to California as the supply of cheap Chinese labor dried up. Before long anti-Japanese feelings in the state became strident. Japanese-American international relations improved, however temporarily, in 1900 when Japan agreed to deny passports to emigrant laborers bound for the United States. But Japanese laborers continued to make their way to the west coast usually through third countries such as Canada and Mexico or from newly annexed Hawaii, and Californians viewed them as an economic and societal threat. The press, the legislature, and San Francisco politicians contributed to the hysteria. (President Theodore Roosevelt referred to members of the California legislature as "idiots" at this time.) A climax of sorts occurred in 1906 when San Francisco segregated Asian school children. Japan quickly protested to Washington.

Meanwhile, because of the United States' successes in the war with Spain, it became an imperial power in the Pacific. Shortly thereafter, Japan's military victories in the Russo-Japanese War led to its becoming a power on the Asian mainland. President Theodore Roosevelt, in an attempt to maintain an equilibrium between Russia and Japan in Asia, mediated to arrange a peace. Both nations accepted a peace conference at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in 1905. While Japan took over the southern half of Sakhalin Island, Port Arthur, and the South Manchurian Railroad, criticism of the United States arose in Japan because Roosevelt's interference had denied Japan the large indemnity it had sought from Russia. Nonetheless, in 1905 U.S. Secretary of State William H. Taft and Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Katsura reached an agreement by which Japan agreed to keep hands off the Philippines in return for American recognition of Japan's occupation of Korea.

The segregation of Japanese students in California threatened to impair Japanese-American relations. Talk of war arose particularly in the United States. Even Roosevelt seemed alarmed that Japan might provoke war. Patience prevailed, however, and then came the Gentlemen's Agreement in 1907 — an informal understanding that bound both countries to stop unwanted immigration between them. The president decided the time was opportune to demonstrate American power in both the Atlantic and the Pacific by sending the United States' fleet of battleships on a 14-month world tour in 1907. Evidence of the improved relations with Japan became evident when "the great White Fleet" entered Tokyo Bay. The Japanese welcome was

enthusiastic, and in the Root-Takakira Agreement of 1908 both nations agreed to uphold the status quo in the Pacific and to respect the Open Door and China's territorial integrity.⁴⁰

The Atlantic fleet arrived off San Francisco on May 5, 1907. Col. John A. Lundeen at the Presidio had already announced to the command that when the fleet entered the Golden Gate on May 6, all duty except the necessary guard and fatigue would be suspended. Extra guards received orders to keep visitors off the gun platforms and all officers and men were enjoined to show the visiting crowds every courtesy. He said that a space near Battery Lancaster would be reserved for Army and Navy officers, their families, and their friends.⁴¹

On the morning of April 6 the Pacific Squadron steamed out to sea, joined the Atlantic Squadron, and together the 16 battleships entered the Golden Gate in one long line. Newspapers estimated that a million people had gathered on the headlands. Alcatraz's salute guns fired an admiral's salute of 13 guns and flagship *Connecticut* returned the salute.⁴² California celebrated the grand occasion. This concentration of naval and military strength at San Francisco Bay demonstrated that America's west coast defense had concentrated there as the United States became a Pacific power.⁴³

By 1908 the Presidio garrison had climbed to more than 2,000 enlisted men. The number of men assigned to extra and special duty increased proportionately. They included bakers, cooks, and their assistants, a butcher, an assistant librarian, bandsmen, numerous clerks, company tailors, a cow herder, drummers, orderlies, messengers, market men, a post printer, switchboard operators, ice men, janitors, a mail carrier, school teachers, and the like. At one point the post quartermaster requested that the men assigned to him as lamp lighters be excused from guard duty.⁴⁴

The troops always looked forward to payday. In August 1907 special orders announced that two consecutive days would be necessary to pay everyone starting with the Signal Corps detachment and ending with the prison guard. The paymaster set up his desk in the post gymnasium. Along with pay the men cherished their campaign badges. In 1905 the War Department announced that campaign badges to be worn on the uniform of active duty officers and men would be announced from time to time. All told, badges were authorized for the Civil War Campaign, Indian Campaign, Spanish Campaign, Philippine Campaign, and China Campaign. In 1908, the first year of issue for the Indian Campaign badge, Sgt. Nathan O'Connor, 3d Band CAC, requested a badge for his participation in the Sioux Campaign of

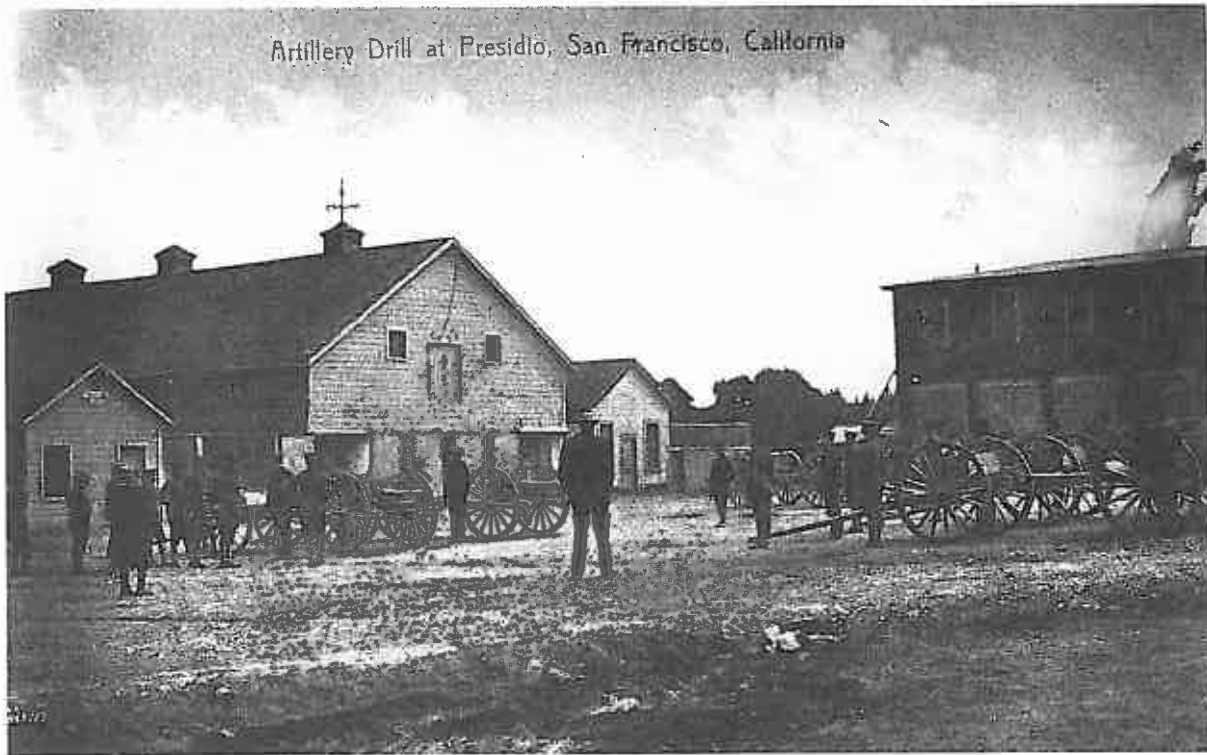


"Going to a Soldier's Funeral." A company in dress uniform blues with white Berlin gloves, circa 1908. View to north. East elevations of brick barracks, 103-105, are in the background. *From a postcard. Presidio Museum Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

1890–1891. About the same time the commander of the 67th Company, CAC, reported issuing Spanish Campaign badges to his men. Another officer submitted the names of his men who were entitled badges for the Spanish, Philippine, and China campaigns.⁴⁵

Another recognition of accomplishment issued at this time was the marksmanship insignia awarded to expert riflemen and sharpshooters for excellence on the small arms target range.⁴⁶

From time to time through the years military prisoners performing labor at the Presidio attempted to escape from the sentries guarding them. On rare occasions such a prisoner would be shot and killed. During this decade two men who attempted escape failed to reach freedom but got away with their lives. In 1909 prisoner Gus Walters made his second attempt within a month by dashing through the Lombard Street gate. The sentry fired, wounding Walters in the arm. He entered Letterman General Hospital for treatment. Pvt. Ellis E. Blungren guarded the military prisoner John Gross in 1912. Unknown to Blungren, Gross had a revolver, which he drew, forcing the sentry to put down his rifle. Gross fired once to scare his guard, then ran into the forest. Blungren recovered his wits, chased the man and fired. The



"Artillery Drill at Presidio, San Francisco, California." None of the buildings shown is extant. Photograph of a postcard sent February 16, 1909, from Fort Baker. NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell.

second bullet hit Gross in the head. He also entered the general hospital, where it was said he would recover.⁴⁷

A potpourri of events affected the lives of enlisted men during these years. Soldiers of the Jewish faith received recognition in 1909 and received authority to be absent during the First Day of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The 3d Band CAC received an invitation to play for the Sophomore Ball at Stanford University. The San Francisco widow of a deceased sergeant requested permission to purchase supplies from the post commissary. The wife of a 30th Infantry sergeant decided to write to Mrs. William H. Taft, whose husband was the new president of the United States, requesting that she and her husband be given quarters on the reservation. The sergeant was reminded that army personnel did not write directly to the White House. Pvt. James E. Felping requested a transfer to a Balloon Detachment at Fort Myer, Virginia, while Sgt. Albert K. Buck asked to appear before a board for a promotion to second lieutenant. The advances of technology made an appearance in 1909 when the War Department directed new fingerprints be made of Artilleryman William T. Snyder. A unique

report in the records was the one submitted regularly in 1909 by Master Gunner Hugo A. Nerbeck. He submitted reports on his progress in studying the Japanese language.⁴⁸

The School for Bakers and Cooks became one of the more popular of the Presidio's institutions. The secretary of war announced that in 1908, 29 bakers and 51 cooks had graduated that year. The staff then consisted of one officer (the post commissary), a first sergeant, and five instructors. The school commander asked the commandant of the military prison on Alcatraz if the prison's laundry could clean the school's white uniforms. He also asked permission for himself and 10 students to attend an unnamed lecture at the University of California, Berkeley. Fort Shafter in Hawaii requested a graduate baker from the school because its baker was about to be discharged. In October 1909 the school's nineteenth class graduated; and 25 privates successfully completed the course in 1911. The post bakery announced a schedule of its services at that time:

Issue and sales of bread — daily
 Parker House rolls and tea buns — Tuesday and Friday
 Graham and Rye bread — Monday and Thursday
 Issue bread sold at the price of flour
 Graham, Rye, and Sales bread — 3¢ per loaf
 Parker House rolls and tea buns — 6¢ per dozen⁴⁹

During these years a number of bright young officers graced the Presidio's post returns, although not all of them actually served on the reservation. In August 1910, for example, while only 26 officers were present for duty, another 65 of the Presidio's commissioned officers were absent on detached service (DS) — at the Presidio of Monterey, Atascadero, Colfax, Auburn, Yosemite and Sequoia national parks, and San Francisco, all in California; Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; West Point and Fort Slocum, New York; the Philippines; Indiana; American Lake, Washington; Columbus Barracks, Ohio; and the Panama Canal Zone. Of the 91 officers, 22 eventually became general officers. Among these several became well-known names: Lt. Frederick Mears, 1st Cavalry, builder of the Alaska Railroad; Lt. Hugh S. Johnson, 1st Cavalry, head of the National Recovery Administration during the New Deal era; and Lt. Delos C. Emmons, 30th Infantry, commanding general of the Hawaiian Department and the Western Defense Command at the Presidio in World War II. Present for duty were the Crissy brothers, both in the Coast Artillery — Dana H. Crissy fighting forest fires that month and for whom Crissy Field was named, and Myron S. Crissy, one of the first men to drop a bomb from an aircraft, in 1911.

Another officer present for duty at that time, Lt. George Ruhlen, Jr., led a detail engaged in military map preparation in California (the Progressive Military Map of the United States). His father, George Ruhlen, Sr., had been an army inspector general who had inspected the Presidio in earlier times. Lieutenant Ruhlen transferred to Fort Rosecrans, San Diego in 1911. After his retirement in 1944 Colonel Ruhlen (Jr.) became president of the San Diego Historical Society, taking a great interest in Cabrillo National Monument. His son, the third George Ruhlen, retired from the U.S. Army with the rank of major general.

In 1912 Capt. Charles M. Bundel, 16th Infantry, served as the Presidio's post adjutant. Between 1936 and 1938 he served as Commandant of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. Lt. William H. Simpson, 6th Infantry, also at the Presidio in 1912, became the commanding general of the Ninth Army in World War II. Capt. Malin Craig, 1st Cavalry, on duty at the post in 1912 before transferring to Fort Yellowstone, later became a major general, Chief of Cavalry (1924-1926), commanding general, U.S. Army Caribbean (1928-1930), commandant, U.S. Army War College (1935), and general, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army (1935-1939).

In November 1912 Lt. Jonathan M. Wainwright, 1st Cavalry, while carried on the Presidio's returns, served his country on detached service at Fort Riley, Kansas. A World War II hero, Wainwright was captured by the Japanese on Corregidor Island in the Philippines. Two other Presidio officers on detached service later became well known. Lt. Walter C. Short commanded the 16th Infantry's machine gun platoon at the Presidio in 1912 before leaving on detached service to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. In 1941 he became commanding general of the Hawaiian Department. After the Japanese attack on December 7, Short was relieved from command and he retired in 1942. Lt. Joseph W. Stilwell, 12th Infantry, on the Presidio's returns but on detached service at West Point in 1914, became the chief of staff to the Chinese President Chiang Kai-shek in World War II. Following the war General Stilwell commanded the Sixth U.S. Army with his headquarters at the Presidio. He died at Letterman Army Hospital.

Chaplain Patrick Hart, who was at the Presidio since 1903, retired in April 1908. Chaplain George H. Jones, CAC, succeeded him. Then in 1909 a second chaplain, Marinius M. Londahl, 30th Infantry, was assigned to the post. Two years later the chaplaincy increased to three officers: Maj. Halsey C. Javitt, 1st Cavalry; Capt. George Jones, Coast Artillery Corps; and Lt. Marinius Londahl, 30th Infantry.⁵⁰

Around mid-1908 the Department of California headquarters left its temporary offices at the Presidio and returned to downtown San Francisco.⁵¹ General Funston preferred to return to the reconstructed Phelan building but work there had not advanced sufficiently. Consequently, the Army chose the new Chronicle building then owned by M. H. DeYoung, signing a one-year lease. When the year was about to expire, Maj. Gen. John F. Weston, then commanding the department, apparently did not wish to renew the lease but instead wished to accept an offer of one floor of the now completed Phelan building at a monthly rental of \$1,650. DeYoung, feeling wronged, wrote Weston saying that Funston had assured him that the Army would undoubtedly stay in the Chronicle building for many years. Funston denied making such a statement.⁵²

Apparently DeYoung won the argument. Three years later, in June 1911, the newspapers announced that department headquarters, then occupying three floors of the Chronicle building, would move to Fort Miley at Lands End, San Francisco. At the same time a new army headquarters, the Western Division, would be established in San Francisco under the command of Brig. Gen. Tasker H. Bliss.⁵³

The Presidio's 30th Infantry Regiment received new top brass in January 1912 with the arrival of Col. Charles McClure and Lt. Col. William H. Sage. All army officers in the Bay Area attended a reception in the officers' club for the newcomers and their wives. Mayor and Mrs. James Rolph, Jr., were the only civilians attending:

The scene was a brilliant one. The light blue of the infantry hosts, the canary of the cavalry, the red of the artillery, the maroon of the medical corps, the orange of the signal corps, mingled with the various shades of the ladies' gowns presented such a dazzling effect as had not been seen in San Francisco since the famous fleet ball at the Fairmont in 1908.⁵⁴

The officers' club again came to the public's attention several months later when Congressman Joseph R. Knowland, president of the California Historic Landmarks League, became alarmed that the Army might raze the building. To bring attention to the historical significance of the structure, Knowland, on behalf of the League, presented a bronze tablet to be placed on the building on November 24, 1914, the anniversary of the birth of Father Junipero Serra. Mr. A. Altman, the drawing instructor at Lowell High School, created the tablet.⁵⁵

When General Pershing returned to San Francisco in January 1914, he and Mrs. Pershing took temporary residence in San Francisco. At that time the Presidio's commander, Col. George Bell, Jr., 16th Infantry, most likely occupied the quarters on Infantry Terrace that had been built for the commanding officer [341]. Although commander of the Eighth Brigade, Pershing did not assume command of the Presidio. Instead the quartermaster general directed that the Presidio's former commanding officer's quarters, a wood-frame residence (former building 22—no longer extant) on the west side of the parade ground (on today's Pershing Square) be remodeled for Pershing's use. The date the building was ready for occupancy has not been determined; possibly it was in the spring after Pershing had left for Texas.⁵⁶

Automobiles again entered the Presidio's records during these years. In 1909 Capt. Andrew Dougherty, 30th Infantry, requested permission to park his car near officer's quarters 43 (no longer extant) in West Cantonment. While probably not the first automobile to be owned by a Presidio officer, it was the first to be mentioned as such in the records. In 1913 the department commander, Maj. Gen. Arthur Murray, announced that his auto could be recognized by the "small red silk curtain with two white stars on it," similar to his boat flag, raised on the windshield. When the auto entered the reservation bearing the curtain, personnel were required to salute.⁵⁷

Fire had been a feared enemy at the Presidio since early army days. As of 1910 most of the post buildings were wood-frame and some of them had reached the age of 50 years and more. Also of constant concern were the heating fires of coal, defective flues, and wooden roofs. In June 1909 the post surgeon reported a minor fire in the post hospital and requested a board of survey to determine the cause, cost, and effect. December of that year brought two building fires. In the East Cantonment, fire damaged a former bachelor officers' quarters then most likely housing married enlisted men's families. A week later the Presidio's post headquarters (former building 24 — no longer extant) on the west side of the parade ground caught on fire. No record of damage has been found, and injury appeared to be light. Chaplain Londahl, occupying permanent quarters on Infantry Terrace (former building 174) experienced a fire in the relatively new building.

In 1911 when the 30th Infantry and the 1st Cavalry stood guard on the Mexican border, the Presidio issued fresh orders for fire fighting on the reservation. The garrison then consisted of two batteries of field artillery, 11 companies of coast artillery, and a handful of hospital

corps men. Capt. T. Q. Asburn became the fire marshal. Six fire districts comprised the eastern portion of the reservation:

1. Main post, from the bachelor officers' quarters and officers' club north to the post hospital and guardhouse and including the brick barracks.
2. Stables and storehouses north and east of the guardhouse.
3. Infantry Terrace.
4. Fort Winfield Scott (under construction and then called "Artillery Terrace").
5. East Cantonment.
6. West Cantonment

The assignments involved most of the garrison:

Fire Apparatus opposite headquarters:

Battery A, 5th Field Artillery
Battery B, 5th Field Artillery

hook and ladder truck, 30 men
chemical engine

Fire Apparatus near guardhouse:

60th Company, CAC

hook and ladder truck, 30 men
hose cart, 30 men

Fire Apparatus, East Cantonment

147th Company, CAC

chemical engine, 25 men

Seven coast artillery companies formed bucket companies. The Hospital Corps provided one medical officer and four litter men. The location of the fire was to be indicated by the fire call followed by the number of long notes corresponding to the number of the fire district. Should the fire occur at Letterman General Hospital or Fort Mason, the post plumbers would turn the proper valve giving high pressure on the mains.⁵⁸

The officers' club suffered yet another fire on March 12. Three months later Maj. A. W. Chase, CAC, discovered a fire in his quarters (former building 93 — no longer extant) in the West Cantonment. An investigation disclosed damage to a pair of dress trousers. Another small fire damaged officer quarters [58] on the east side of Funston Avenue in 1913.⁵⁹

Disaster struck the Presidio in 1913. At 11 P.M., April 26, a fire broke out in the quarters of Sgt. First Class George H. Schall, Hospital Corps, in the West Cantonment. The building had originally been built to house bachelor officers and had been converted into quarters for married

noncommissioned officers. Soldiers turned out to fight the fire and the Presidio requested the aid of the San Francisco Fire Department, which sent engines. The fire destroyed the building and a small structure (former building 331 — no longer extant) behind it, and, more tragically, it also took the lives of Mrs. Schall (a paralytic), her aged mother, and three children: Henry, age 9, Topsy, 7, and Joseph, 5.

The solemn funeral, held two days later, was witnessed by two regiments of infantry, two troops of cavalry, a field hospital staff, men from the Signal Corps, and "scores" of women and children. Two chaplains conducted the service and the 1st Cavalry Band provided the dirges. Sergeant Schall had been hospitalized and was unable to attend. In 1914 one more woman died in a Presidio fire, the wife of Sgt. Michael Sanderson, 16th Infantry Band.⁶⁰

In January 1915 Maj. James G. Harbord, a cavalry officer, arrived at the Presidio of San Francisco with a squadron of cavalry troopers for duty during the Exposition. He had long been a friend of Pershing's, both having served as lieutenants in the 10th Cavalry many years before. Harbord recorded that former President Theodore Roosevelt came out to the fair that summer and General Pershing came up from Texas on leave to visit his family, "the last visit they would ever have together." Pershing returned to Texas.

At 4:20 A.M., August 27, Harbord, in a tent camp on the Presidio parade ground, was awakened by the ominous sound of "Fire Drill." The Pershing residence, only 200 yards away, was on fire. The post commander, Maj. Henry H. Whitney, CAC, also close to the Pershing family, said that soldiers first tried to save the house but that action delayed summoning the city fire department by 15 minutes.

Twelve people occupied the wood-frame residence that night: Mrs. Pershing, daughters Helen, age 8, Ann, 6, and Margaret, 3, and son Warren, 5; William Johnson, valet to the general; Mrs. Walter O. Boswell and her children, James, 6, and William, 5, and Mrs. James R. Church, two officers' wives who were visiting; and two servants, Mrs. Irene Raymond and Florentine Pereri. Johnson succeeded in waking Mrs. Boswell and her children, and Private Herd, Medical Corps, managed to get little Warren out of the house.

All except Mrs. Pershing and her three daughters escaped from the fire. Later it was established that the four had been killed by suffocation. Nearly all the rest suffered from shock and

minor injuries. An investigation disclosed that the fire was caused by live coals dropping from an open grate upon the floor.

It fell upon Major Harbord to notify Pershing of the terrible event. Thinking perhaps to save the general some shock, Harbord addressed the telegram to Pershing's aide. The aide, however, was absent, and the El Paso operator read the telegram to Pershing himself. The general had been expecting his family to visit El Paso in a few days.

Pershing rushed to San Francisco, arriving Sunday August 29. Mrs. Pershing's parents, U.S. Senator and Mrs. Francis E. Warren, arrived that same day. Pershing first visited the funeral home, then went to the burned-out residence, and finally he went to see his son, who had been taken to Letterman General Hospital. Twenty-four Presidio sergeants accompanied the cortege to the train that afternoon and the mourners departed for Cheyenne, Wyoming. In that day's issue, the *San Francisco Chronicle* wrote:

With the demolition of the Pershing home, one of the oldest landmarks of the Presidio disappeared. The house for many years has been the quarters for the commanding officer of the troops at the Presidio, and some very distinguished general officers have lived here.

A year ago it was remodeled to suit the wishes of General and Mrs. Pershing, but its exterior appearance has remained the same through twenty and more years.

Later, however, the *Chronicle* described the "wooden shacks" at the Presidio as a disgrace and shame. The *Examiner* called the residence an old frame house and it criticized the Presidio's inadequate fire fighting set-up and the lack of trained firemen. San Francisco's fire chief, Thomas R. Murphy, advised the Army to reform fire fighting procedures at the Presidio. He called for a permanent fire company drawn from the soldiers, training and drills provided by the San Francisco Fire Department, the trained company to be permanently assigned to the post, and more fire boxes installed.⁶¹

The year 1915 ended with one more fire that destroyed the roof of an officer's quarters (former building 19 — no longer extant) next to the post chapel, quarters that had once housed the Presidio chaplain.⁶²



Above: The Presidio post commander's quarters on the west side of the old parade ground. In 1913 this residence was remodeled for Brig. Gen. John Pershing and his family. *National Archives photograph.*

Below: Fire consumed the Pershing home in August 1915, killing Mrs. Pershing and their three daughters. *National Archives photograph.*





A ceremony or guard mount in front of the brick guardhouse, circa 1910. An artillery park of field artillery guns is in the foreground. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

As before, pomp and circumstance involved the Presidio's soldiers during these years. A circular appeared in 1911 outlining the duties of the Presidio's two bands (3d CAC and 30th Infantry):

1. Afternoon concerts between four and five o'clock.
2. Bands to alternate playing at guard mount, Presidio concerts, U.S. Army General Hospital, post dances, and at the division commander's residence at Fort Mason.
3. The bands to play three pieces in the bandstand immediately after guard mount.

On the sixtieth anniversary of the capture of Mexico City, the garrison played host to veterans of the Mexican, Civil, and Spanish-American wars. Battery Blaney (four 3-inch guns) fired a 21-gun salute. The 29th Company, CAC, had a special assignment, keeping order at the entrances to the Presidio and at the national cemetery.⁶³

With the transfer of the saluting station from Alcatraz to the Presidio, the Coast Artillery now had the honor of welcoming foreign warships to San Francisco Bay. A Japanese squadron, *Soya* and *Aso*, arrived in March 1909. Later that year the guns saluted German cruiser *HIM Arcona* and Netherlands cruiser *Noord Brabant* on separate occasions.

Land visitors received welcome too. In June 1909 a cavalry troop rode to the Southern Pacific Depot to escort the French ambassador to the Fairmont Hotel. In October another cavalry/infantry force, accompanied by the 3d Band, traveled to Oakland to escort President William H. Taft on his visit to the East Bay. Two years later President Taft visited San Francisco

in connection with the forthcoming Panama-Pacific Exposition. On October 13 the troops paraded in the city for the president, and Taft visited the Presidio on the following day.⁶⁴

San Francisco loved parades. In 1909 all the Bay Area posts including the Presidio participated in the Portola Festival. Another year, the troops traveled to Oakland for the Grand Army of the Republic festivities. Twice in 1910 the troops escorted his Imperial Highness Prince Tsai Tao, China, in San Francisco.⁶⁵

Then there occurred the visit of two suspected Japanese spies, one of whom reportedly had a small but powerful camera. When the corporal of the guard brought the two to post headquarters, Col. John P. Wisser immediately dismissed them. They had no cameras and they had been walking where dozens of citizens walked daily. On another occasion, so it was reported, a sight-seeing bus stopped near ancient East Battery. The tour guide began to explain that the obsolete columbiad gun was San Francisco's modern armament when, suddenly, a horde of Asiatic soldiers poured over the breastwork. The startled bus driver rushed to headquarters to report a Japanese attack. He learned later that the Oriental Film Company was shooting a battle scene of the Chinese revolution. The horde turned out to be Japanese-American actors.⁶⁶

Animals, as well as soldiers, composed a part of the post's complement. Horses for the cavalry and the artillery, as well as individual riding horses, were essential to operations. The quartermaster maintained horses and mules for transporting supplies on post or on patrols. Many of the companies, the post hospital, and individuals retained cattle, primarily for the production of milk. Nearly all organizations had their favorite dogs (and other pets), authorized or merely tolerated. It was not unusual for officers to have chickens for a supply of fresh eggs. The Presidio's animals continued to be a subject of much correspondence as the new century advanced. The commander of Company A, 30th Infantry, requested the use of an old "rear" behind his company's mess hall for a cow shed. By 1909 a herder took care of cattle during the day, but the owners had to keep them in enclosures at night. (The herder was paid 50¢ per cow per month.) Any loose cows were locked up on a first offense and expelled from the reservation on a second charge. The records disclosed that Company F, 30th Infantry, possessed eight cows and one bull. A circular published in 1909 prohibited the presence of dogs on the parade ground during drills or ceremonies. At one point Washington wrote requesting that a Presidio mule be transferred to the San Francisco National Cemetery. On another occasion the Quartermaster General asked that 500 horses for the 10th Cavalry, which was then in

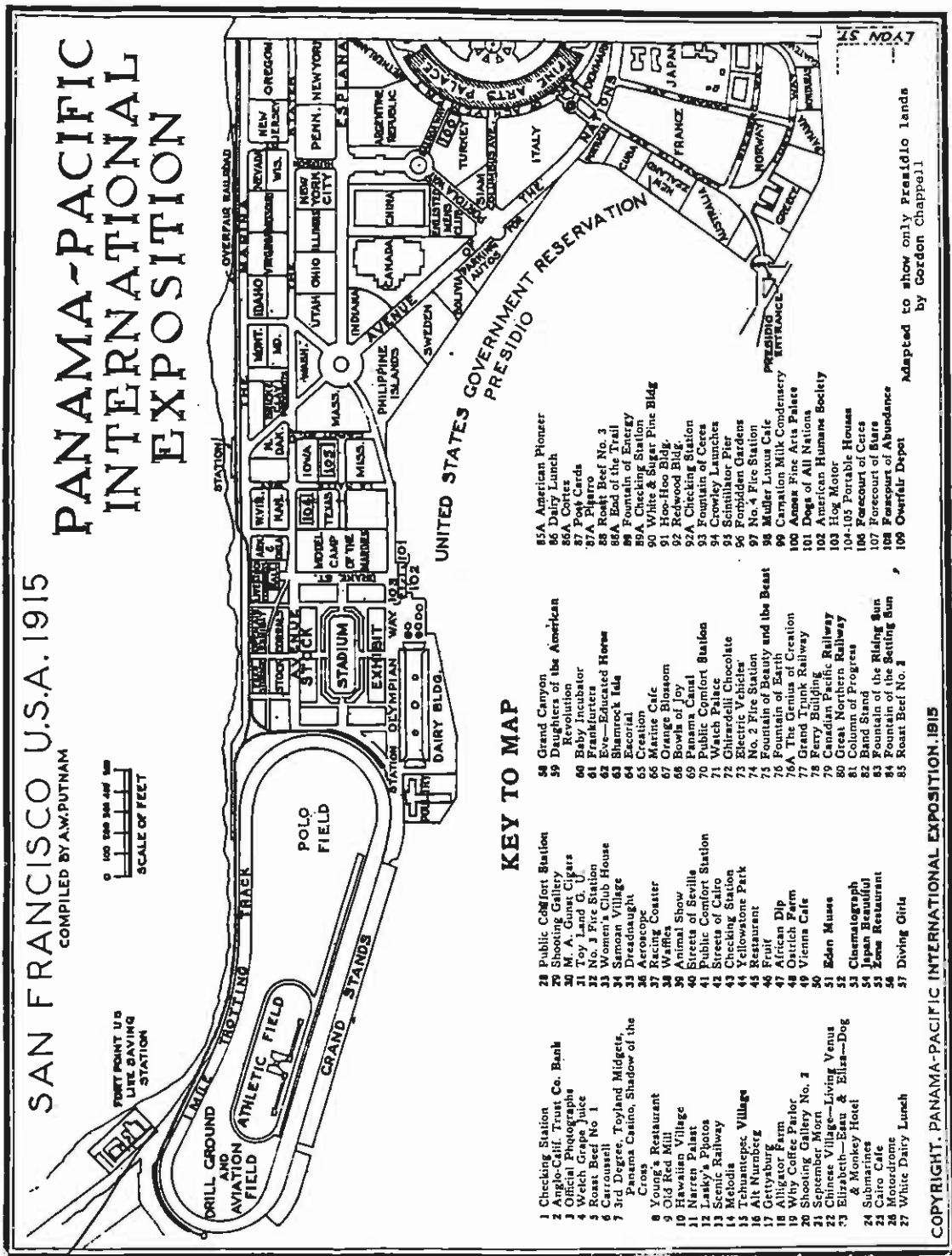
the Philippines, be held at the Presidio until an army transport was ready to sail. One day a horse fell into the reservation dump and received severe burns. The poor animal had to be killed to end her suffering.⁶⁷

One sunny day in 1911 Lt. Col. Euclid B. Frick, chief surgeon at the post hospital, wrote to the commanding officer, 70th Company, CAC, saying in a firm manner that the 70th's bull had raped and impregnated the hospital's cow. This would cause the cow's milk to dry up, forcing the hospital to purchase milk on the open market, so Colonel Frick enclosed a bill for \$15 with which to pay for the milk. The commander of the 70th Company, none other than bomb dropper Capt. Myron Crissy, indignantly replied that his bull had not raped the cow; clearly it was a flagrant case of female seduction. The cow followed the bull to the pasture grounds near the Harbor View resort and remained with him until late afternoon, insisting on repeated service. Inasmuch as she insisted on receiving service five or six times during the day instead of twice as was usually considered ample, Crissy thought that \$5 would be just compensation for the 70th Company's bull's services.⁶⁸

Panama-Pacific International Exposition

Following the 1906 earthquake San Francisco began rebuilding the ruined city with great rapidity, generally disregarding Architect Burnham's plans for a beautiful city. Some of the leading citizens, however, began promoting the idea of a major fair to announce to the world the city's recovery. Also, an exposition could celebrate the 400th anniversary of Balboa's discovery of the Pacific Ocean (in 1513) and the Panama Canal, scheduled for completion in 1914. In February 1911 President William H. Taft signed a bill that designated San Francisco as the site for a Panama-Pacific International Exposition, and the planning began. To celebrate the award, San Francisco held a great parade. From the Presidio came a battalion of the 30th Infantry, four companies of the Coast Artillery Corps, and a battery from the field artillery. Charles DeYoung, chairman of the Joint Committee on Reception for the Delegates to Washington, thanked Brig. Gen. Tasker H. Bliss for the Army's participation in the parade and the splendid appearance of the troops.⁶⁹

The site selected for the fair included the bay front lowlands extending from the Army's Fort Mason in the east to the Presidio's Golden Gate headlands in the west, including 18 acres in the southern portion of Fort Mason and 287 acres of largely unused land in the Lower Presidio. At first the Army was less than enthusiastic about parts of its reservations being so



NPS drawing no. 641-20498.

employed. Secretary of War Jacob M. Dickinson wrote Congressman Kahn that because use of the land would be denied to the government for five years, the sale of liquor on government reservations, and keeping the fair open on Sundays would lead to complications, he could not favor such uses of the reservations. Dickinson resigned, however. His successors, including Maj. Gen. Arthur Murray at San Francisco, favored an exposition, "it was to be the first exposition so located that the Army could take an important part."

The quartermaster general said the federal government should cooperate in every reasonable way, but certain provisions should be agreed upon:

The four quartermaster warehouses at the Presidio wharf should be removed.

The exposition [should] pay for any changes in the artillery fire control system.

Any seawall or grading be done permanently and left in place.

Any fair building the Army wanted should be retained.

All fair buildings the Army did not want to be removed.

A road be built at Fort Mason from Van Ness to the Army's transport docks at Fort Mason [the road was later named MacArthur Avenue].

The grounds [should] be returned in good condition.

The agreement called for 114 acres of the Lower Presidio to be filled by dredging, bringing realization to the Harts plan of 1907.⁷⁰

To signify its cooperation, the Presidio invited the members of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition Society to a review on the upper parade ground in February 1912. Both the 30th Infantry Regiment and a provisional regiment of the Coast Artillery Corps participated, their bands playing and the field and staff officers being on horseback. In 1912 the Army further refined its requirements. Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, now the Chief of Staff, wrote Congressman Kahn concerning two items of new construction, not strictly military, very much needed: a 75-foot-wide boulevard through the Presidio, costing \$332,000, and improvements of the reservation's roads, walks, and grounds, an additional \$50,000.⁷¹

The Army also debated erecting new fences around the coastal batteries. While the Corps of Engineers wanted stout fences topped with barbed wire, General Murray thought all batter-

ies and mine structures should be open to the public. At the end of 1912 Murray, no doubt taking advantage of developments, addressed a letter to the Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson outlining the Presidio's needs before the exposition opened in 1915:

Additional buildings to make the Presidio a brigade infantry post.

Completion of Fort Winfield Scott as a 10-company coast artillery post.

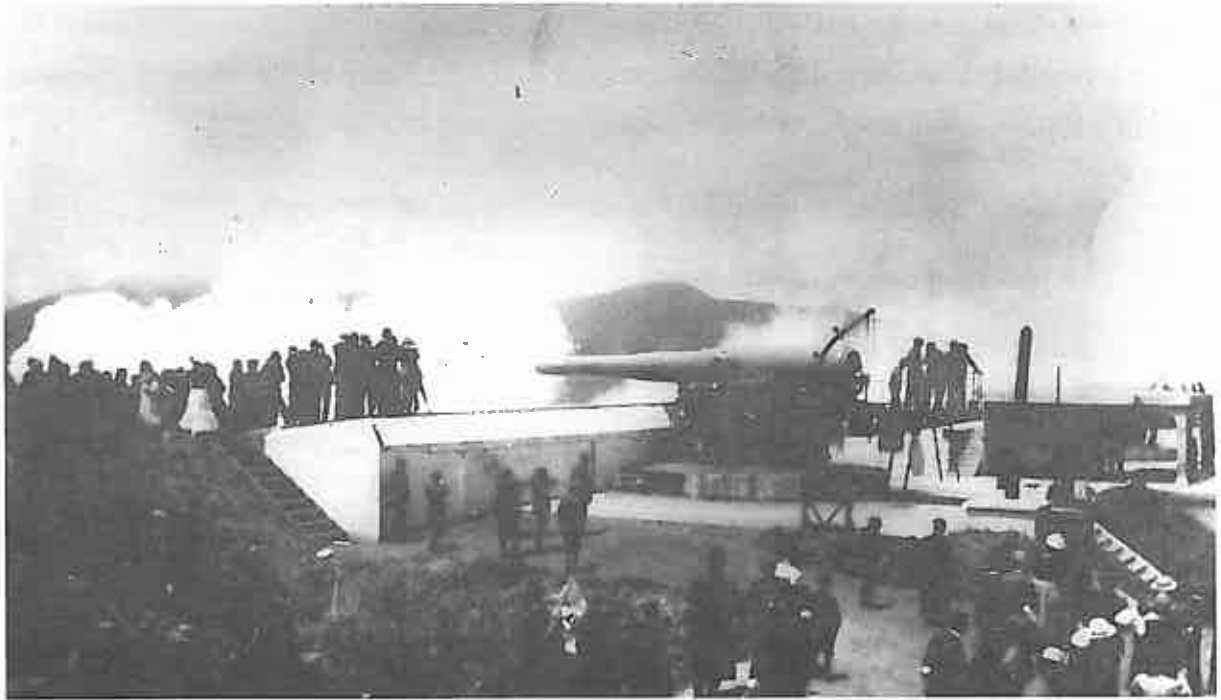
General road and walk work.

A government exhibit building at the exposition (one that later could become a brigade post headquarters).

Model camps at the exposition for army regulars, national guard, West Point cadets, and foreign units.

He added that both the Presidio and Fort Mason were generally dilapidated and ramshackle. He reinforced his views later saying that he had visited the majority of army posts and the Presidio was in the worst condition of any of them by far. Chief of Staff Wood had visited lately and said that when he was stationed there 25 years ago, the Presidio was one of the most beautiful posts he had seen and he could not believe how run down it had become. The quartermaster general, however, pointed out that if money was diverted to the Presidio at that time, 150 other posts would suffer. The quartermaster general apparently had the last word.⁷²

Nonetheless, the Quartermaster Department prepared estimates for new construction at the Presidio and Fort Winfield Scott for 1914 amounting to more than \$400,000. Apparently only the brick stables at the Presidio were erected, they being essential because of the destruction of the cavalry stables in the Lower Presidio.⁷³ Ground-breaking ceremonies for the exposition at Golden Gate Park in 1911 were followed by the acquisition of land on the bay front — 305 acres from the military, 208 acres leased from private owners, 122 acres of streets and Lobos Square from the City of San Francisco. Suction dredges pumped mud from the bay to reclaim 114 acres. About 400 buildings were razed or moved. The State of Oregon selected the first site on Presidio land for its building, March 14, 1912. Ground breaking for Machinery Hall occurred on January 1, 1913. Construction and landscaping were nearing completion when war broke out in Europe in July 1914, a week before completion of the Panama Canal. Nonetheless, European exhibits managed to reach San Francisco.



Firing a 12-inch rifle, believed to be Battery Godfrey during the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in 1915 - a demonstration firing for visiting public. *Presidio Army Museum Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

The Panama-Pacific International Exposition formally opened on February 15, 1915, when President Woodrow Wilson threw a switch in Washington. New York City, 26 states, and 23 nations had erected exhibition buildings. The Panama Canal was reproduced in miniature at a cost of \$500,000. At the gate to the Court of the Universe stood the Tower of Jewels, 433 feet tall and covered with 130,000 suspended, colored stones resembling aquamarines, emeralds, and rubies. Master landscaper John McLaren from Golden Gate Park and an old friend of the Presidio's designed the large, beautiful gardens.

On the Presidio proper stood the Oregon Building, the Palace of Fine Arts, and the buildings of many of the states. Foreign nations included Canada, the Philippines, Sweden, China, Argentina, Turkey, Italy, France, Norway, Australia, and many others. To the west a large stadium was surrounded by corrals and a dairy building. The U.S. Marine Corps maintained a model camp while a special building housed an enlisted men's club for all the services. At the western end of the fairgrounds, near the 1890 life saving station now in a new location, a large, oval "1 mile trotting" and automobile racetrack occupied a large space. Within the oval, open spaces were developed for a drill ground and aviation field, athletic field, and a polo field. Huge grandstands outside the track held spectators. The main roads in the Presidio area



"Start of the Grand Prix Race," Panama-Pacific International Exposition, Presidio of San Francisco, February 27, 1915. The Fort Point Life Saving Station seen in the distance had been moved 700 feet west to make room for the racetrack. *Crissy Field Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Aviator Art Smith, at right, discusses the recoil of a 12-inch mortar at Battery McKinnon-Stotsenberg with an artilleryman, April 1915. The scene illustrates the size of the gun. This was during the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, 1915, when many civilian visitors were shown the guns and witnessed demonstration firings. When the barnstorming, dare-devil pilot Lincoln Beechy, the Douglas Fairbanks of the aviation world, crashed and died while performing at the exposition, Art Smith, who was also a barnstorming aviator prominent in the early experimental years of aviation, took over from Beechy the aviation demonstrations at the fair. *From a postcard. National Park Service.*



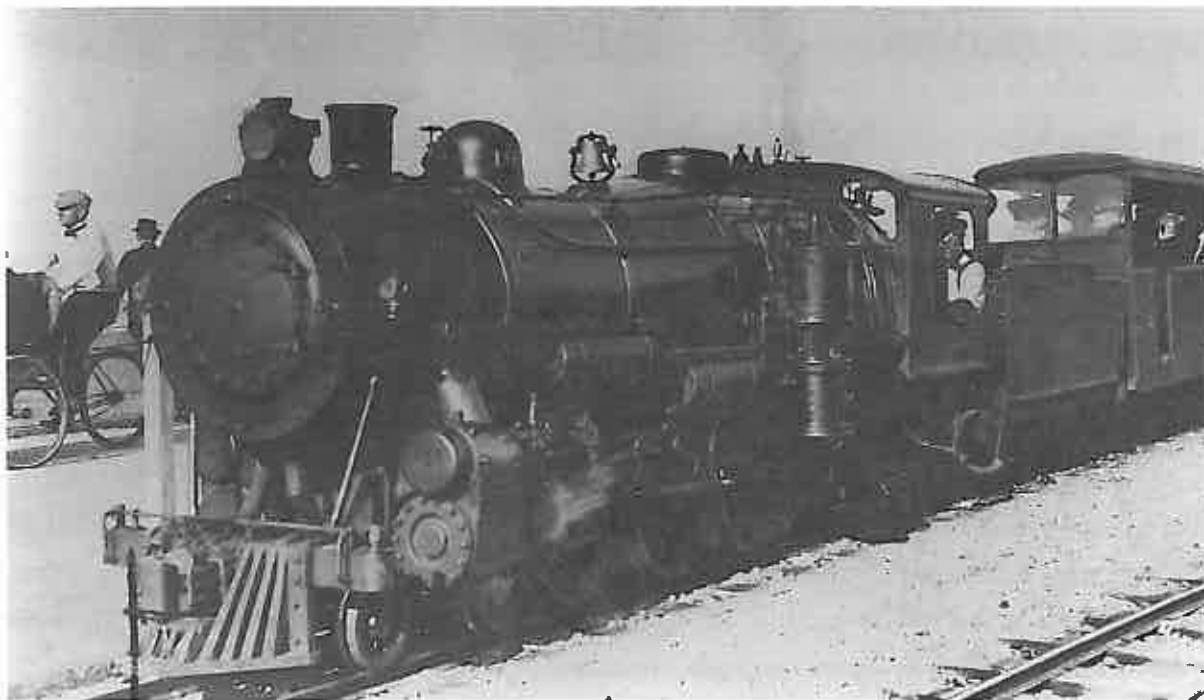


Presidio of San Francisco, Soldiers of Troop M, 1st Cavalry. A musician is standing at the far left. Dress uniform (without Berlin gloves or yellow breast cords), circa 1910-1913. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

included the Avenue of the States, the Avenue of the Nations, and along the bay front the Marina Drive paralleled by the "Overfair Railroad."⁷⁴

Throughout 1915 all three services — U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Marine Corps — paraded and drilled regularly. The Presidio's "1st Cavalry Squadron" dazzled onlookers with its drills. The Coast Artillery invited citizens to watch the firing of the big guns. Although the submarine minefields had been moved outside the Golden Gate, additional mines were laid within the harbor and exploded to demonstrate their power. In the fall the 24th Infantry Regiment arrived from the Philippines, remaining at the Presidio the rest of the year. Part of the Quartermaster's Fontana building east of Fort Mason became a temporary barracks for visiting troop units from the National Guard and Reserve Officers' Training Corps. Enlisted men in uniform had free admission to the exposition and a ball was held for them in the enlisted men's club.⁷⁵

In 1890 Brig. Gen. and Mrs. Anson Mills had been stationed at the Presidio of San Francisco, an assignment they had found most enjoyable. In 1915 the retired couple returned to San Francisco to visit the exposition, "Previous visits to many other international expositions enabled us intelligently to understand the superiorities of the various exhibits. We thought



Panama-Pacific International Exposition, May 18, 1915. Locomotive no. 1913 and its train, Overfair Railway, at the Presidio end of the line west of the racetrack. *Collection of Grahame Hardy, California State Railroad Museum.*

Palace of Fine Arts, Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco, 1915. The Palace of Fine Arts was built partly on army land and during World War II the Army used it as a warehouse. *Presidio Museum Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*



the best showing, outside our own country, was made by Canada, the next best by Germany, and the third best by the Japanese.⁷⁶

The author Laura Ingalls Wilder also visited the Presidio that year:

Yesterday...I went to the Presidio, the army reservation where the soldiers live in barracks and in tents. There are beautiful residences where the officers live and a wide cement drive where automobiles and carriages go, with dirt roads for the cavalry....We saw the stables where the cavalry horses and mules are kept....They all looked fat and well cared for. We met soldiers on foot, on horseback, and saw them at work at different things. Everyone seemed to be busy about their affairs and everything was so clean and well kept.⁷⁷

Because of war in Europe the exposition closed its doors in December 1915. Before then M. H. DeYoung, vice president of the exposition, proposed preserving the grounds, drives, gardens, and several of the buildings. But all the structures within the Presidio reservation were removed except the area of the racetrack, the Palace of Fine Arts, the Dairy and Poultry buildings, and for a time the Oregon Building. Concerning the Palace of Fine Arts, Historian Kevin Starr has written, "Maybeck's Palace of Fine Arts had mythic dimensions. It expressed to San Franciscans something deep and fundamental about what they had lost in the destruction of their city, and they were loath to lose their symbol which magically regained for them the vanished past." It would remain.⁷⁸

Reduction in Strength

When General Pershing led the 8th Brigade to the Mexican border in April 1914, he left behind a small cadre of three officers and 55 men to administer the post. Temporary reinforcements arrived in July when the 30th Infantry Regiment returned from Alaska. But that outfit left in December when it transferred to Plattsburg Barracks, New York. The Panama-Pacific Exposition opened in February 1915 and to lend an army presence the Provisional Squadron, 1st Cavalry (12 officers and 302 enlisted men), and the 1st Cavalry Band arrived from the Presidio of Monterey. Since the 1st Cavalry had left the Presidio, the terrible cavalry sheds in the Lower Presidio had been torn down and the cavalry horses now had the solid brick stables (now 661, 662, 663, 667, and 668) for their quarters.

The Provisional Squadron, also called the 1st Cavalry Squadron, performed its drills and parades to the delight of fair goers until it returned to Monterey in November. Also at the



Above: Post stables, from left to right: 667, 663, 662 and 661. The building at the extreme right is not extant. On the hill in the background is barracks, 682. Post-1914 photograph. View toward the southwest. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Below: One of five cavalry stables erected 1913-1914 is visible behind the army sedan and driver, circa 1930. The automobile is a 1929 Oakland. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*





Firing the National Salute at the Presidio, July 4, 1915. The building is the band barracks, 106. *Collection of John Banta, NPS.*

Presidio during that time the Army's Field Hospital 2 and Hospital Corps Ambulance Company 2 assisted in whatever medical emergencies came their way.

By the time the last of the cavalymen had left, the entire 24th Infantry Regiment had arrived at the Presidio on temporary duty from its third tour of duty in the Philippine Islands since the Spanish-American War. Once again the Presidio's strength swelled to more than 2,000 personnel. Visitors undoubtedly were impressed with the smart, snappy drills of these black veterans. With the closing of the exposition the 24th Infantry transferred to Fort D. A. Russell in Wyoming. The Presidio's strength declined to four officers and 86 men.

The post commanders rotated even more rapidly than the units, with nine officers holding that position between April 1914 and February 1916. The first of these, Col. Richmond P. Davis, CAC, Coast Defense Commander, Coast Defenses of San Francisco, came over from Fort Winfield Scott when the 8th Brigade departed and remained as temporary commander for three months.⁷⁹



Coast Artillery Corps company in dress uniform in front of their barracks, circa 1914. *Presidio Museum Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Although the numbers for personnel were small in February 1916, big doings lay ahead for the Presidio as Europe approached its third year of war. Meanwhile, the garrison at Fort Winfield Scott had grown to nearly 1,000 personnel. The officers and men of the Coast Artillery Corps were fully prepared to defend the strategically important San Francisco Bay and the people and resources of California.

Chapter 15 Notes:

1. Humphrey, April 20, 1906, to War Department, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.
2. Starr, *California Dream*, p. 408.
3. William W. Harts, "Report Upon the Expansion and Development of the Presidio of San Francisco, California," January 1907, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

Harts graduated from West Point in 1889 and was appointed a lieutenant in the Engineers. He served on river and harbor projects all over the nation. During the Spanish-American War he built batteries and laid submarine mines at Tampa Bay. An exploding mine severely wounded him. Later, he served in the Philippines. During the year fol-

lowing the San Francisco earthquake, he developed plans to beautify and enlarge both the Presidio and Fort Mason. Not all his concepts were adopted, but he set the tone for these two reservations' future.

Later, Harts took charge of the public buildings and grounds in Washington, D.C. He supervised the construction of the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial, and the Red Cross building. From 1913 to 1917 he served as the military aide-de-camp to President Woodrow Wilson, who said of him, "He has been the most satisfactory officer with whom I have dealt." After America's entry into World War I, Harts served in France and again became President Wilson's aide during the 1918-1919 presidential visit to Europe. He concluded his career as a brigadier general.

Office of the Adjutant General, Appointments, Commissions, and Personal (ACP) File for William W. Harts, Document File 1889, RG 94, NA.

4. Rankin, Kellogg, and Crane, May 1, 1907, to quartermaster general, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.
5. Harts, April 18, 1907, to adjutant general, Pacific Division; Devol, September 21, 1907, to Inspector General, War Department, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.
6. Harts, "Report," p. 5.
7. *Ibid.*, pp. 9-13 and 16.
8. *Ibid.*, pp. 8-9; Charles Moore, *Daniel H. Burnham, Architect Planner of Cities*, 2 vols. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1921), 1:230-236, and 2:2-3; Starr, *California Dream*, pp. 290-293.
9. Harts, "Report," pp. 57-59.
10. *Ibid.*, pp. 77 and 84-87.
11. PSF, Post Returns, 1907-1912. A battalion of the 30th Infantry had organized at the Presidio in 1901 just before transferring to the Philippines. In 1907 the regiment came through the Presidio in preparation for a second tour in the Philippines. Mahon and Danysh, *Infantry*, pp. 531-540.
12. G. A. Nugent, February 24, 1908, to adjutant, PSF, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92; Quartermaster PSF, March 15, 1909, Request for Funds; J. Biddle, April 5 to construction quartermaster, and April 9, 1910, to chief of engineers; E. Winslow, February 21, 1917, to district engineer, San Francisco, General Correspondence 1894-1923 and Press C Letterbooks 1909-1910, OCE, RG 77, NA.
13. PSF Quartermaster, December 1, 1908, to adjutant; G. Ruhlen, June 19, 1909, to quartermaster general, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.
14. Funston, January 14, 1908, to adjutant general, U.S. Army, Document File 1800-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA. Funston did not account for the 1902 barracks [682].
15. R. R. Stevens, June 28, 1909, to Department of California, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA. Current building 567 is probably one of the new kitchens built at East Cantonment in 1909.
16. First numbered 220, then 100, and finally 35, this barracks became the offices of the headquarters, Ninth Corps Area, in 1920. In the 1930s a three-story extension was added to the south end. A few years later a roof-top addition was made. The building measured 40 feet by 388 feet. As of 1992 barracks (current building 100) housed the Sixth Army Band; barracks (current buildings 106 and 35), offices of the headquarters, Sixth U.S. Army. R. R. Stevens, August 14, 1909, to quartermaster general, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA; U.S. War Department, *Annual Report 1912*, pp. 70-71. See also Laura Soulliere Harrison, *Presidio Physical History Report, Building Inventory*, vols. 1-3.
17. Smith, October 13, 1909, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received, 1909, RG 393, NA. The staff noncommissioned officers (NCOs) at this time included: two sergeants major senior grade, three master electricians, an engineer, four commissary sergeants, four electrical sergeants first class, four ordnance sergeants, one post quartermaster sergeant, three master gunners, two electrical sergeants second class, and a fireman. PSF, Post Returns, January 1909. The numbers in the rightmost column are the current building numbers.

18. The Presidio had three colonels at this time: Col. John A. Lundeen, Coast Artillery Corps (CAC), commanding officer; Col. Clarence Deems, CAC; and Colonel Chubb. General Orders 52, August 11, 1909, RG 393, NA.
19. Harrison, *Physical History*, vol. 3; Quartermaster Form 117, U.S. Army Commands 1920-1942, PSF, vol. 8, RG 394, NA; War Department, *Annual Report 1911*, p. 158.
20. R. R. Stevens, June 28, 1909, to Department of California, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA; U.S. War Department, *Annual Report 1912*, pp. 70-71; Quartermaster Form 117, PSF, RG 394, NA. In 1993 Regional Historian Gordon Chappell recorded two antique, cast iron power poles having small crossarms bearing insulators on the west side of Funston Avenue. Chappell, February 4, 1993, to Chief, Division of Park Historic Preservation, WRO, NPS.
21. R. R. Stevens, June 28, 1909, to Department of California, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92; Quartermaster Forms 117, PSF, RG 394, NA.
22. Quartermaster Forms 117, PSF, RG 394, NA. Form 117 concerning current building 225 identified it as both a paint warehouse and a root house. Root house or root cellar, a structure, usually covered with earth but not in this case, used for the storage of root crops and other vegetables.
23. T. H. Rees, June 23, 1915, to chief of engineers, General Correspondence 1894-1923, OCE, RG 77, NA.
24. R. Ernest Dupuy, *The Compact History of the United States Army* (New York: Hawthorn Books, 1973), pp. 219-220.
25. Other troops of the 14th Cavalry continued to patrol the national parks. Sargents was located south of San Francisco, between Morgan Hill and Watsonville. The 194 miles must have referred to the round trip. By 1908 the field artillery had returned to letters for the batteries.
26. PSF, Post Returns, 1908; Special Orders 116, May 28, 1908, Post Orders, RG 393, NA. The men received \$1.50 per diem for six days.
27. The vicinity of Atascadero most likely became the Army's Camp Roberts, a 100,000-acre military reservation. Col. Milton Halsey, Fort Point and Presidio Historical Association, telecom, September 21, 1993.
28. PSF, Post Returns, August 1908.
29. The training area at American Lake eventually became Fort Lewis. It became the site for the Army's early attempt in large-scale maneuvers for the western states.
30. This training was probably based on the text of *The Service of Coast Artillery* published just the year before and authorized by the War Department. PSF, Post Returns, 1908-1911.
31. PSF, Post Returns, August-September 1910.
32. Dupuy, *Compact History*, p. 207; Lundeen, August 12, 1909, to Department of California, and N. P. Phister, October 14, 1909, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA; PSF, Post Returns, August 1909. Phister had to explain why he rode a government horse on the test ride rather than his own mount. He replied that he would purchase the horse as soon as the Army approved the sale.
33. PSF, Post Returns, January 1911. Selfridge Park, or airfield, named for Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge, a San Francisco high school graduate, who on duty with the Signal Corps for aviation service at Fort Myer, Virginia, accompanied Orville Wright in a demonstration flight for the Army. The frail craft "wobbled along its launching track, rose, then lurched down to crash in splintered debris." Wright was severely injured; Selfridge died, the first man ever killed in heavier-than-air powered flight. A number of military installations, including coastal batteries and airfields have been named in his honor. *The Army Almanac*, p. 270; Dupuy, *Compact History*, p. 204. Ronald T. Reuther, "Crissy Field from the Beginning," typescript, 1993, p. 1.
34. Stephen A. Haller, *The Last Word in Airfields. A Special History Study of Crissy Field, Presidio of San Francisco, California* (San Francisco: NPS, 1994), pp. 3-4; Michael Svanevik and Shirley Burgett, "Aviation revolution had its

beginnings at Tanforan Track," and "New epoch in warfare heralded at Tanforan," *The Times*, November 1 and 8, 1991.

35. Frederick Palmer, *Bliss, Peacemaker, The Life and Letters of General Tasker Howard Bliss* (New York: Dodd Mead, 1934), pp. 99–100; PSF, Post Returns, 1911; General Orders 12, February 4, and 22, March 7, 1911, RG 393, NA. The 30th Infantry returned to the Presidio in June 1911 on board United States Army Transport *Logan* from "Camp Point Loma" (Fort Rosecrans, San Diego).

36. Maurice Matloff, general editor, *American Military History, Army Historical Series* (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1969), pp. 350–352; PSF, Post Returns, 1912. In 1910, Chief of Staff Leonard Wood reorganized the general staff into four divisions: Mobile Army, Coast Artillery, Militia, and War College.

37. PSF, Post Returns, 1912.

38. Pershing officially took command of the brigade on January 22. The customary review had to be canceled because of a storm. *San Francisco Examiner* January 23, 1914. At the same time the 7th Brigade formed at Vancouver Barracks, Washington. Secretary of War *Annual Report* 1913, p. 71.

39. PSF, Post Returns, 1914; *The Army Almanac*, pp. 699–700; Garrison, April 23, 1914, in Lindley Miller Garrison Papers, New Jersey Historical Society, contributed by John Albright, NPS.

40. Blum et al., *The National Experience, A History of the United States* (New York: Harcourt, Brace and World, 1963), pp. 536–537; E. B. Potter, *The Naval Academy, Illustrated History of the United States Navy* (New York: Galahad, 1971), p. 130; Richard C. Snyder and Edgar S. Furniss, Jr. *American Foreign Policy, Formulation, Principles, and Programs* (New York: Rinehart, 1954), pp. 16–21.

41. PSF, General Orders 11, May 4, 1908, RG 393, NA.

42. The Presidio replaced Alcatraz Island as the designated saluting station in August 1907. War Department, General Orders 167, August 12, 1907.

43. Kinncald, "History of the Golden Gate," p. 325.

44. Memorandum, Extra and Special Duty Men, Memo 13, February 3, 1912, Circulars 1911–1912; Post quartermaster, October 8, 1907, to commanding office, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

45. PSF, Special Orders 198, August 13, 1907; N. O'Connor, January 10, 1908, to commanding officer, PSF (O'Connor received his badge, no. 1227, in February 1909); commanding officer, 67th Company, CAC, September 11, 1908, and commanding officer, 159th Company, CAC, February 23, 1909, both to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA. Jerome A. Greene, National Park Service, telecom, August 30, 1994. These "badges" were actually medals but not referred to as such until recent times.

46. Commanding officer, Company M, Signal Corps, September 22, 1909, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

47. *The San Francisco Call*, March 2, 1909, and August 29, 1912.

48. PSF, Circular 34, August 16, 1909; R. B. Wheeler, Stanford, October 13, 1908; Mrs. W. B. Boyer, February 19, 1908; Mrs. R. M. Barr, August 30, 1909, to Mrs. W. H. Taft; J. E. Felpling, December 10, 1909; A. K. Buck, December 23, 1909; War Department, March 11, 1909; H. A. Nerbeck, 1909, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

49. War Department, *Annual Reports* 1908, p. 163; commanding officer, Training School, January 17, March 16, and October 18, 1909; Post treasurer, Fort Shafter, July 9, 1909, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters received; PSF, Special Orders 176, August 10, 1911; PSF, Memo 18, November 7, 1911, RG 393, NA.

50. PSF Post Returns 1910–1914. During the time Lt. Walter C. Short, 16th Infantry, was assigned to the Presidio, another Lt. Walter C. Short, 1st Cavalry, also was present.

51. The Pacific Division had been abolished in June 1907.

52. M. H. DeYoung, February 8, 1909, to Weston; Funston, February 13, 1909, to J. D. Phelan; R. D. McElroy, February 27, 1909, to Department of California, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

53. The Western Division was established on July 1, 1911, under Brig. Gen. Daniel H. Brush, Bliss having transferred East. The Departments of California and the Columbia came under it.

Department of California — California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and Hawaii
Department of the Columbia — Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Yellowstone National Park, and Alaska.

Hawaii became a separate department on October 11, 1911. It is not known if the Department of California headquarters actually moved to Fort Miley. The Western Department, headquarters in San Francisco, replaced the Western Division and the Department of California in 1913. It commanded military operations in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Yellowstone National Park, California, Nevada, Utah, and Alaska. *The San Francisco Call*, June 9, 1911.

54. *The San Francisco Call*, January 17, 1912.

55. *San Francisco Examiner*, November 16, 1913.

56. E. T. Hartman, OQMG, May 11, 1914, to Western Department, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

57. A. Dougherty, October 4, 1909, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received; PSF, General Orders 26, October 14, 1913, RG 393, NA.

58. Apparently these calls did not suffice. Three months later a new system of calls was installed:

1. Main post — Fire Call.
2. Stables, warehouses, wharf, etc. — Stable Call
3. Infantry Terrace — Mess Call
4. Fort Winfield Scott — Officers' Call
5. West Cantonment — Guide Right.
6. East Cantonment — Guide Left.

Memo 51, July 19, 1911, RG 393, NA.

59. Post surgeon, June 24, 1909, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received; PSF, Post Orders 280, December 20 and 27, 1909; Memo 27, April 12, and Memo 32, April 26, 1911; Special Orders 50, March 16, 1912; Special Orders 115, June 2; Special Orders 130, June 24, 1912, and Special Orders 149, July 1, 1913, all in RG 393, NA.

60. *San Francisco Chronicle*, April 27, 1913; Post Returns, April 1913; PSF, Special Orders 93, April 27, 1913, RG 393, NA; *San Francisco Examiner*, August 28, 1915. No record has been found in army correspondence concerning the Sanderson fire. The *Examiner* recalled that back in 1890 the actress Blanch Bates, caught in a fire in the Presidio's corral, had been rescued by the troops. The newspaper did not specify if the site was the bachelor officers' residence, the Corral, or the mules' enclosure.

61. *San Francisco Chronicle*, August 28, 29, 31, 1915; *San Francisco Examiner*, August 28, 29, 30, 31, 1915; *Army and Navy Journal*, July 15, 1944. Harbord later recalled that the fog was so thick the night of the fire that he had difficulty determining its location although only 200 yards away. He served with Pershing in France and after his retirement became the president of the Radio Corporation of America. Francis Warren Pershing, raised by two maternal aunts in Lincoln, Nebraska, graduated from Yale University in 1931. Founder of Pershing and Company, stockbrokers, he served in the U.S. Army in World War II, emerging with the rank of major. He died in New York City in 1980, at age 77 years. *New York Times*, June 10, 1980. Presidio fire chief Bill Williams, now retired, believes that this disaster caused the Army to adopt modern fire fighting techniques and hire civilian fire departments at military installations.

62. *San Francisco Chronicle*, December 3, 1915; PSF, Special Orders 195, December 3, 1915, RG 393, NA.

63. PSF, Memorandum 46, June 23, 1911; General Orders 34, September 12, 1907, RG 393, NA.
64. E. W. Eberle, March 25, 1909, to commanding officer, PSF; commanding officer, PSF, November 7, 1909, to Department of California, Register of Letters Received; PSF, Special Orders 206, September 30, 1909, RG 393, NA; Post Returns, September 1911.
65. PSF, General Orders 29, April 19, and Special Orders 224, September 18, 1910. The prince apparently was a member of the Ch'ing (Manchu) dynasty then in the last years of its rule. In April the name was recorded as Tsai Tao, in September, Tsai Hsun. Of course, there could have been two princes.
66. *The San Francisco Call*, March 22, 1911; *San Francisco Examiner*, April 17, 1912.
67. Quartermaster general, January 16, 1907, to Commanding officer, PSF; commanding officer, PSF, August 7, 1909, to Department of California; F. B. Shaw, November 22, 1909, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received; PSF, Circular 3, January 26 and Circular 15, April 17, RG 393, NA.
68. E. B. Frick, September 21, 1911, to commanding officer, 70th Company; M. S. Crissy, to adjutant, PSF, Haines Papers, Box 35, PAM. It has not been established if this confrontation was resolved by negotiation, a board of officers, an edict from the Department of California, the Inspector General's Office, or an act of the U.S. Congress.
69. Kinnaird, pp. 328-329; PSF, Post Returns, February 1911; Memorandum 13, March 2, 1911, RG 393, NA.
70. Frank Morton Todd, *The Story of the Exposition, Being the Official History...*, 5 vols. (New York: Knickerbocker Press, 1921), 1:133 and 162; J. B. Aleshire, April 5, 1911, to adjutant general, and August 10, 1911, to chief of engineers, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.
71. PSF, Memorandum 11, February 1, 1912; Wood, July 2, 1912, to Kahn, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA. Wood began his letter, "My Dear McKalm." The boulevard may have been a reference to today's Lincoln Boulevard.
72. Murray, December 16, 1912, to Stinson, and April 15, 1913, to adjutant general, U.S. Army, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.
73. Memo for Captain Hines, 1914 estimates, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.
74. Anne Coxe Toogood, *Historic Resource Study, A Civil History of Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore*, 2 vols. (Denver: NPS, n.d.), 1:120-128; Todd, *Story of the Exposition*, 1:290, 297, 384, 386, and 389.
75. After the exposition closed, the club building was moved to the Presidio, across from the General Hospital where the YMCA operated it for many years. Later, enlarged, it became an enlisted service club. It was razed ca. 1971.
76. Mills, *My Story*, p. 351. At that time Canada and Germany engaged in a bitter, deadly war.
77. Laura Ingalls Wilder, 1915. Contributed by Stephen A. Haller, National Park Service.
78. Starr, *Americans and the California Dream*, p. 298; Toogood, *Civil History*, 1:128. Architect Bernard R. Maybeck designed the palace. The original structure, built of plaster on chickenwire and wood frame construction, lasted until well after World War II. When it became unsafe, a philanthropic San Franciscan, Walter S. Johnson, donated \$4.5 million to reconstruct it in permanent concrete and steel, which was done between 1964 and 1967.
79. PSF, Post Returns 1914-1916. The huge 16-inch gun battery at Fort Funston south of San Francisco was named in honor of Colonel Davis. While post returns for Fort Winfield Scott have not been located for 1915, its strength during the exposition probably numbered about 30 officers and 1,000 enlisted men. The last return available, for December 1913, showed a personnel strength of 27 officers and 930 enlisted men.

CHAPTER 16. HARBOR DEFENSES, 1776–1970

The coastal defenses at Fort Winfield Scott, together with others at San Francisco Bay, constituted one of the best and most extensive outdoor museums of the history of coastal defense engineering and architecture to be found in North America. They illustrated the evolution of coastal defenses from the colonial eighteenth century (cannon only), through the "American Third System"† (masonry fort at Fort Point), post-Civil War (earthwork East Battery and magazines), era of modernization (1890–1905), World Wars I and II, and on to the Nike† missile era. The physical evidence illustrated such new elements as rifled guns, breech-loading, artillery fire control, submarine mining, and antiaircraft defense. They demonstrated the types of emplacements required for a large variety of guns and mortars between 1853 and World War II, from Civil War smoothbores† to the great 12-inch rifles and mortars, and from brick forts to missile launchers.

Spanish-Mexican Period, 1776–1846

When Capt. George Vancouver of the British Royal Navy visited San Francisco Bay in November 1792, he observed that the Spanish force at the Presidio of San Francisco could salute his arrival with only one operable cannon. Spanish authorities, in turn, were embarrassed that the foreigner had discovered the weak state of San Francisco's defenses. As a result Spain erected a defensive strongpoint, the Castillo de San Joaquin, on the southern point of the entrance to the bay, Punta del Cantil Blanco (White Cliff Point, today's Fort Point). Dedicated on December 8, 1794, the work consisted of an adobe-walled emplacement, faced with fired brick and mortar, having about thirteen gun embrasures. Behind the 10-foot thick walls a wooden esplanade, made of heavy timbers and plank flooring, supported the cannon. Other structures included a barracks building, sentry box, fortified tower, and mess room. An inspection in 1796 disclosed that the armament consisted of three 24-pounder guns, two iron 12-pounders, and eight bronze half culverins (cannon carrying a nine-pound shot).

Before long, fierce storms and earthquakes attacked the adobe walls and they gradually deteriorated. Spanish authorities finally rebuilt the fortification in 1815. The horseshoe-shaped, brick and mortar parapet now had 16 gun embrasures and a new esplanade supporting the guns. When Capt. Frederick W. Beechey, also of the Royal Navy, visited in 1826 he counted nine cannon mounted in the castillo. As before, deterioration set in and by 1841, under the Mexican administration, the castillo lay abandoned. When Lt. John Charles Fremont of the U.S. Army briefly occupied the castillo in 1846, he counted 14 brass cannon, which his men



Battery Crosby, 1630, and the Golden Gate Bridge. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, August 1990.*

spiked by inserting butcher steels in the touchholes, breaking them off flush with the top of the guns so that they could not easily be removed, but would have to be carefully drilled out. In another account Fremont said he had found "six large and handsome pieces." Shortly thereafter a naval officer, Lt. Jonathan S. Misroon, visited the castillo and counted 10 guns. In 1847 an army engineer, Lt. William H. Warner, prepared a plan of the abandoned castillo whose terreplein† was established at 96.7 feet above sea level.¹

In 1893 a San Francisco newspaper reported that one of the old Spanish cannon, described as a rust-encrusted iron 32-pounder that had long lay on the ground at the point, had been moved to the adobe officers' assembly hall (today's officers' club [50]) and put on display. The cannon weighed 2 tons and its length was 18 feet. A close examination showed that the gun had been spiked.²

In 1994 six Spanish cannon — bronze and not iron — from the old Castillo de San Joaquin were displayed at the Presidio of San Francisco: two at the entrance to the officers' club [50]; two at Pershing Square, one at the former Presidio Army Museum [2]; and one at Fort Point [999]:

Officers' Club

Spanish bronze cannon. Cast in 1673. Named *Poder*. On a concrete mount at the east side of the entrance.

Spanish bronze cannon. Cast in 1673. Named *San Pedro*. On a concrete mount at the west side of the entrance. This cannon has a spike in the touchhole, presumably from Fremont's operation.

Pershing Square

Spanish bronze cannon. Cast in 1679. Named *S. Fracisco* [sic]. On a concrete mount on the east side of the Presidio flagstaff.

Spanish bronze cannon. Cast in 1693. Named *La Birgin de Barbaneda*. On a concrete mount on west side of the Presidio flagstaff.

Presidio Museum

Spanish bronze cannon. Cast in 1628 and possibly the oldest bronze fort gun in the United States. Named *S Domingo*. On a replica mount on the lower porch, east side of current building 2.

Fort Point

Spanish bronze cannon. Cast in 1684. Named *San Martin*. On a replica carriage and placed against the south inner wall of the fort, west of the sally port.

All six guns were cast at Lima, Peru.³

Early American Period, 1846-1860

In the spring of 1848, elements of the 1st New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment, stationed at the Presidio and with little enthusiasm, made repairs to the old Spanish castillo and may have mounted a couple of cannon at the redoubt†. A year later, 1849, the Presidio's regular troops did mount four 32-pounder guns and two 8-inch howitzers at the point. But in order to prepare Fort Point for a new masonry fort, army engineers demolished the castillo and reduced the headland from elevation 97 feet to 16 feet and removed the guns formerly mounted in the work.



The fort at Fort Point, named Fort Winfield Scott in 1882, seen from the ocean. A fog bell mounted on the exterior slope in 1864 may be seen. Circa 1870s photograph. *The Society of California Pioneers*.

The new masonry fort, under construction in 1854, was described as "the key to the whole Pacific Coast in a military point of view." While the work continued, engineers emplaced nine 32-pounders in temporary positions on the headlands. Plans called for a total of 142 weapons at Fort Point:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| First tier of casemates† | 28 42-pounder, smoothbores 2 24-pounder, smoothbores |
| Second tier | 28 8-inch columbiads† 2 24-pounder smoothbores |
| Third tier | 28 8-inch columbiads 2 24-pounder, smoothbores |
| Barbette tier | 9 10-inch columbiads 17 8-inch columbiads 11 32-pounder smoothbores |
| Ten-gun battery outside the fort | 10 42-pounder smoothbores |
| Counterscarp gallery | 5 24-pounder flank howitzers |



Fort Winfield Scott, circa 1909 or later. The building at the base of the bluff was a U.S. Lighthouse Establishment quarters completed December 1908. The small frame building next to the fort reportedly was once a sutler's store. *Fort Point National Historic Site.*

As the fort neared completion the Army's chief engineer described it: "There is no stronger, no more efficient [fort], than this, gun for gun, in any country."⁴

When finished in 1861, Fort Point, the only complete, brick-walled, American Third System fortification in the west coast's coastal defenses, received a garrison that year. Fort Point and Alcatraz Island supplied the principal defenses for San Francisco Bay as the Civil War commenced.⁵

Despite the fort's potential, events during the Civil War soon cast a shadow on its permanency as a vital contributor to the defenses. In 1864 an army board of engineers investigated the events at Fort Pulaski, Georgia, where rifled guns had breached the scarp after a short bombardment, and at Fort Jackson, Louisiana, where projectiles from a 13-inch mortar had battered the defenses. These incidents strongly indicated that a technical revolution in heavy ordnance had apparently made a handsome and costly third system fort obsolete. There would be no further construction in the manner of the fort at Fort Point. Nevertheless, Fort Point continued to be armed for another 35 years, until the beginning of the twentieth century.⁶

An inspection of Fort Point in 1868 showed 76 heavy weapons mounted, including 8- and 10-inch columbiads; 24-, 32-, and 42-pounder smoothbores; 24-pounder howitzers; 10-inch siege mortars; and 24-pounder Coehorn mortars†; as well as 89 unmounted weapons including 10- and 15-inch Rodman guns†; 42-pounder smoothbores; 200- and 300-pounder Parrott rifles; 10-inch siege guns; and 8-pounder brass Mexican guns. By then, the ten-gun battery outside the fort had been disarmed.⁷

East and West Batteries

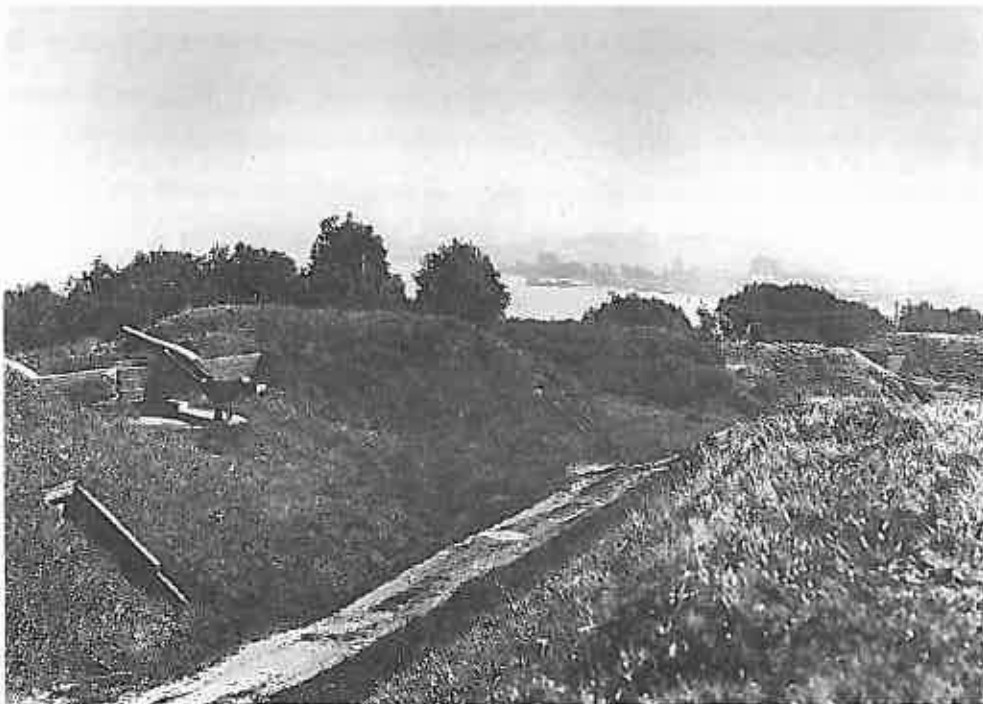
With the demise of multitiered, masonry forts after the Civil War, army engineers developed plans for future coastal batteries incorporating the lessons learned. These plans called for thick sand parapets at the front of the barbette batteries, 20 feet between the crests and supported at the rear by a 4-foot thick breast-height wall. Armament consisted of 10-inch and 15-inch Rodman guns mounted in pairs with an earthen traverse† between each pair. These traverses were 14 feet in height, 12 feet thick at the top, and 20 feet thick at the bottom. Each traverse contained a concrete service magazine. At Fort Winfield Scott these plans took shape in the construction of two permanent works, East and West batteries, on the headlands above Fort Point. Construction began on West Battery in 1870, and three years later, on East Battery. West Battery was essentially completed by 1872 and had 12 guns mounted by 1874. East Battery was still under construction in 1877 when the U.S. Congress refused to pass further appropriations for this type of construction.⁸ Plans for the construction of similar barbette batteries were prepared for Lime Point across the Golden Gate on the Marin headlands (the future Fort Baker), on Alcatraz Island, at Point San Jose (the future Fort Mason), and on Angel Island. Of these, only the work at Fort Point and at Lime Point and the remodeling of Alcatraz's existing batteries were carried out.

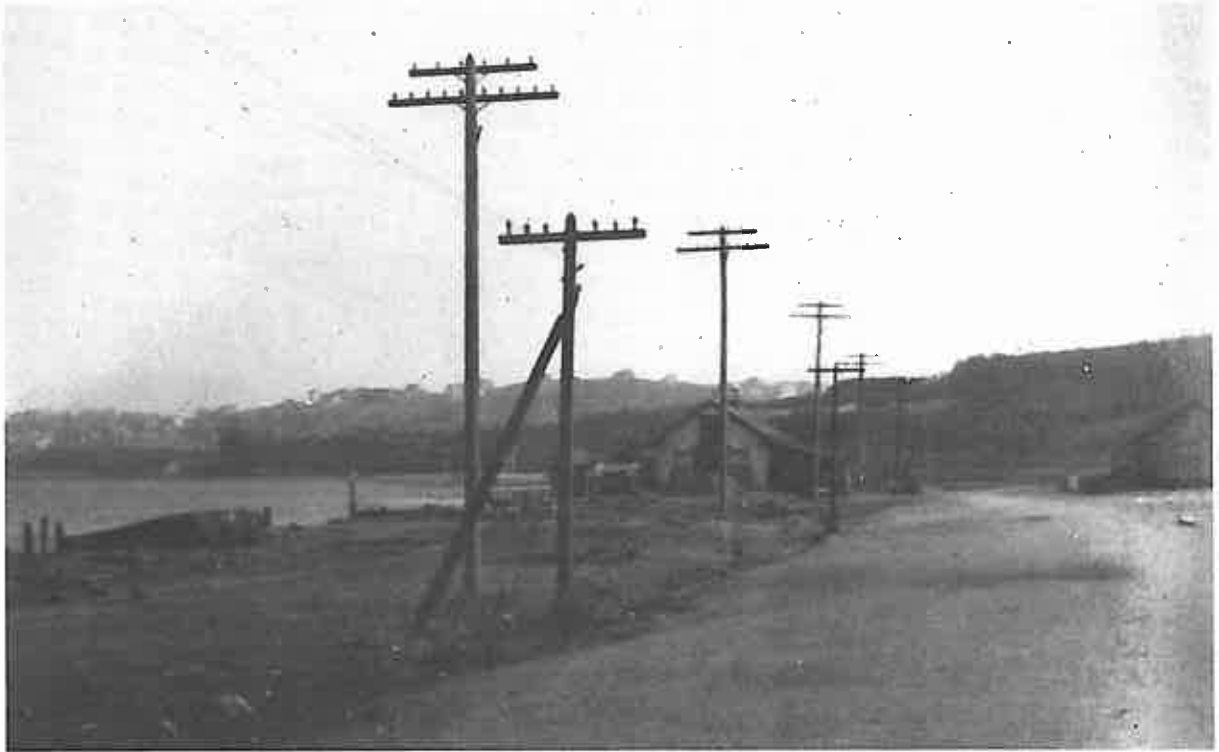
By the late 1880s the artillerymen concentrated their training on the 15-inch Rodman gun. West Battery had 12 of these large guns mounted in 1891. East Battery, however, did not receive its first and only 15-inch Rodman until that year. A typical practice at the guns was described in general orders published in July 1881. These orders directed that practice firing would occur at the 1,700-yard range and at the center of imaginary squares corresponding to one plotted on the harbor chart. The ammunition allowance at each of the two ranges, 1,700 and 2,700 yards: eight shell and 60 pounds of mammoth powder and two shot with 100 pounds of mammoth powder.⁹



Above: A pair of 8-inch rifled Rodman guns, East Battery, at Fort Point, circa 1896. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Below: East Battery, circa 1915; 8-inch converted Rodman rifle. Magazine entrance is on the lower left. The Palace of Fine Arts, Panama-Pacific International Exposition is in the distance. View toward the east. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

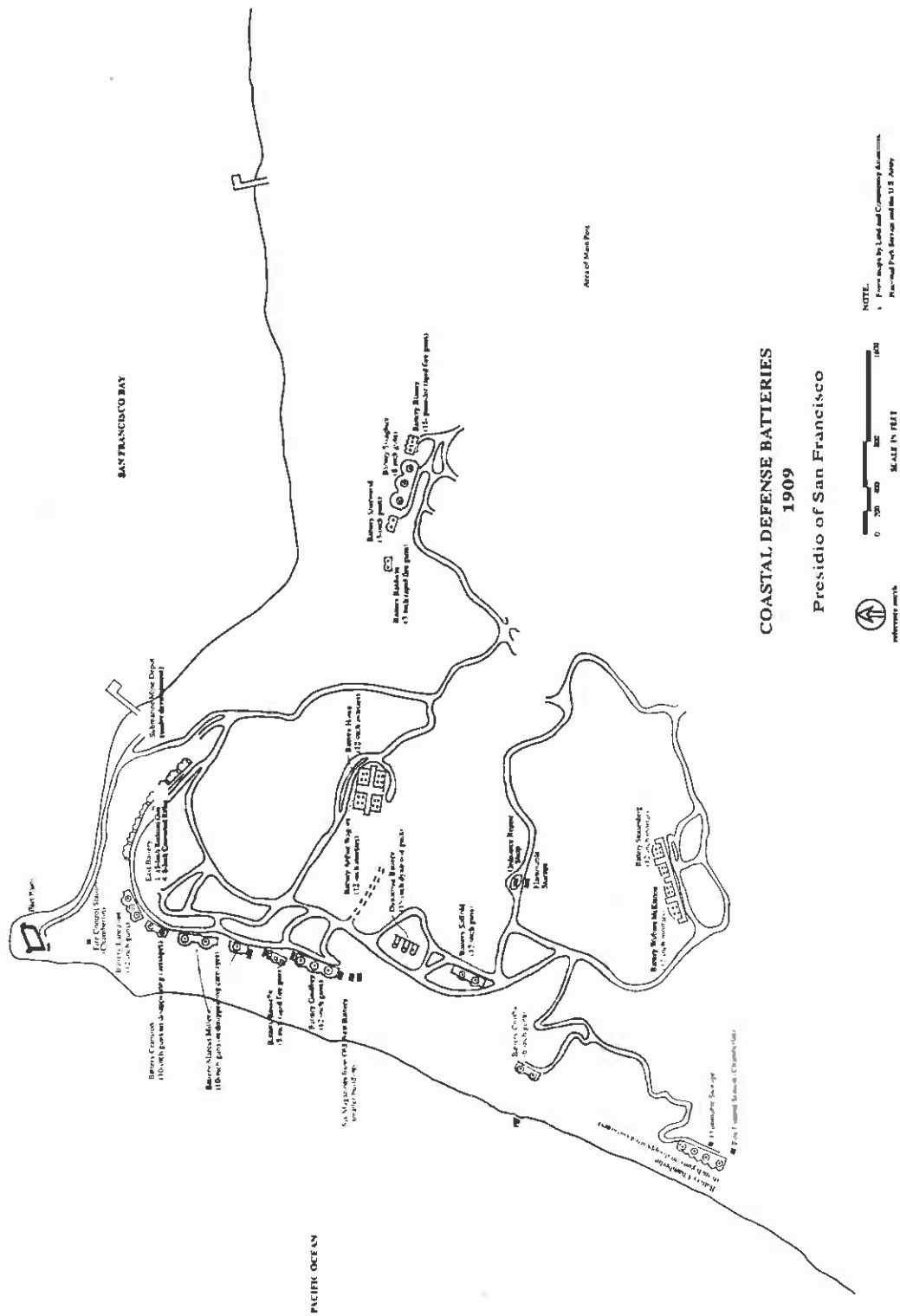




"San Francisco from Our House at Fort Scott." Three obsolete 15-inch gun tubes lying on the beach at Fort Winfield Scott awaiting disposition, circa 1900. "Our House" was the quarters of Capt. and Mrs. Sedgwick Pratt, 1900-1901. Capt. Pratt commanded Battery E, 3d Artillery, stationed at Fort Winfield Scott from July 1900 to February 1901. In February it became the 28th Company, Coast Artillery Corps. *Lucinda Danielson Collection, P87-011.12, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

One problem the Presidio's artillerymen wrestled with during these years was the mile and a half march twice each day from their barracks at the main post to West Battery at the Fort Point headlands. To reduce this time-consuming marching, army engineers agreed to construct a practice battery at the main post, a battery that was not considered to be a part of San Francisco's coastal defenses but which failed to appear on any contemporary maps of the Presidio. In 1891 the engineers constructed four wooden platforms for 8-inch converted Rodman rifles at a site somewhere near the railroad terminal and on the drill ground in the northeast portion of the reservation. A year later the engineers built four more wooden platforms and the battery grew to eight 8-inch converted rifles†. At that point the War Department asked why this battery was needed when there were still sixteen 8-inch Rodmans mounted in the old masonry fort. The Presidio replied that the guns in the fort were mounted on obsolete carriages and had limited fields of fire, and were thus unsuitable for practice.

By 1895 and perhaps earlier, the California National Guard also made use of the practice battery — on Sundays. The battery's continued existence was threatened in 1896 when the Army



NPS drawing no. 641-20491.

considered filling and grading a part of the marshes in the lower Presidio. The post commander, Col. William Graham, wrote to the department saying that removal of the battery's earthworks would render the guns practically useless for instruction and make their location unsightly in appearance. Nevertheless, the Department of California ordered the battery dismantled and the 8-inch rifles moved to East Battery at Fort Winfield Scott where a 15-inch Rodman had been mounted.¹⁰

Even as soldiers practiced on the 8-inch rifles, momentous events were underway in the evolution of coastal defenses in the United States. In his seminal book, *Seacoast Fortifications of the United States*, E. Raymond Lewis discusses the great advances that took place in the 1880s in weapons production: steel in place of iron for guns, perfection of breech loading, and more effective propellants. The result was lighter, stronger, longer, and more powerful weapons. An indication of the coming changes, perhaps, was a telephone call the Presidio post commander made to the department on August 28, 1890, saying he had 86 obsolete seacoast guns ready for sale or shipment.¹¹

Endicott Period, 1890–1915

In the 1880s the United States began to address the matter of the modernization of the coastal defenses of the nation, of which the Chief of Engineers Horatio G. Wright wrote, "It is believed that there is hardly any civilized nation so illy prepared for war, so far as maritime defenses are concerned as the United States." In 1885 Secretary of War William C. Endicott headed a Board on Fortifications or Other Defenses that announced a list of 22 seaports in their order of importance for their defense. New York Harbor led the list; San Francisco Bay stood in second place. The board called for 110 guns and 128 mortars for San Francisco. Congress dragged its feet on the Endicott recommendations, but in 1890 the Army's New York board of engineers prepared a new project for the defense of San Francisco Bay and soon the first appropriation, \$201,000, reached San Francisco and the work began.

In June 1891 construction began on the first modern battery in the defenses of the west coast. At Fort Winfield Scott army engineers began work on three emplacements for 10-inch guns to be mounted on disappearing carriages, a work eventually to be named Battery Marcus Miller [1660]. Construction of this and other batteries involved the gradual destruction of West Battery whose 15-inch Rodman guns were removed. Eventually only six of the former battery's magazines and their earthen traverses remained: on the left flank of Battery Marcus



Emplacement for a 10-inch, breech-loading rifle on Buffington-Crozier carriage ("disappearing") at Battery Marcus Miller, Fort Winfield Scott. This battery is believed to be the first heavy caliber rifle battery to be commenced in the United States, although nearby Battery Godfrey was completed first. Armed in 1897, it was named for Marcus Miller who commanded the Presidio in 1898 and who fought in the Modoc War, 1872-1873. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, June 1991.*

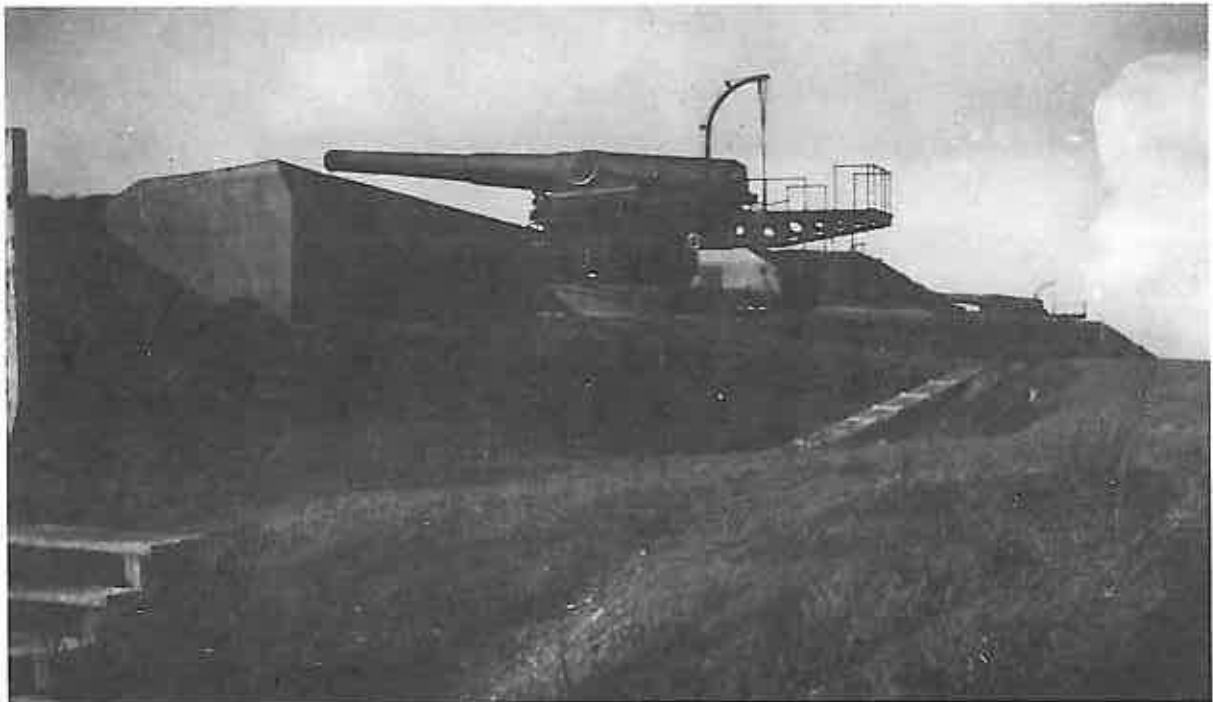
Miller [1658]; on the right flank of Battery Boutelle [1651]; on the right flank [1647] and left flank [1646] of Battery Godfrey; and two standing alone south of Battery Godfrey [1643 and 1640].¹²

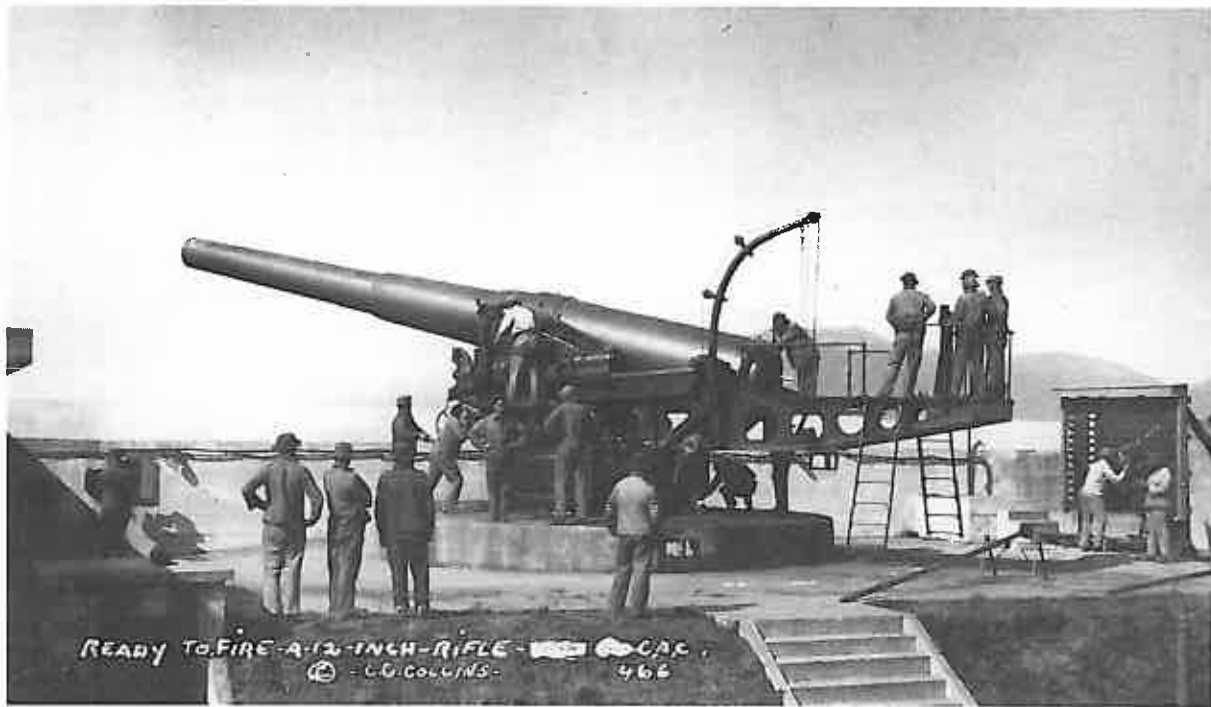
Early in 1892 the engineers began work on a battery for three 12-inch guns mounted on barbette carriages — the future Battery Godfrey [1647]. The third new battery at Fort Winfield Scott was for modern breech-loading 12-inch mortars. First named Battery Howe, later, Battery Howe-Arthur Wagner [1287], its construction began in April 1893. Completion of Battery Marcus Miller was delayed while the Ordnance Department developed the details for disappearing carriages. The first platform at Battery Godfrey was the first 12-inch platform to be completed in the United States. Composed of Portland cement, it was reinforced horizontally and vertically with several tons of streetcar rails. The emplacement was completed in 1895 and the west coast's first 12-inch rifle was mounted in June. Army officers in the Bay



Above: Battery Godfrey, 1647. Built 1892-1896, it was the first heavy caliber rifle battery (three 12-inch guns on barbette carriages) to be completed and armed in the coastal defenses of the United States. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, September 1990.*

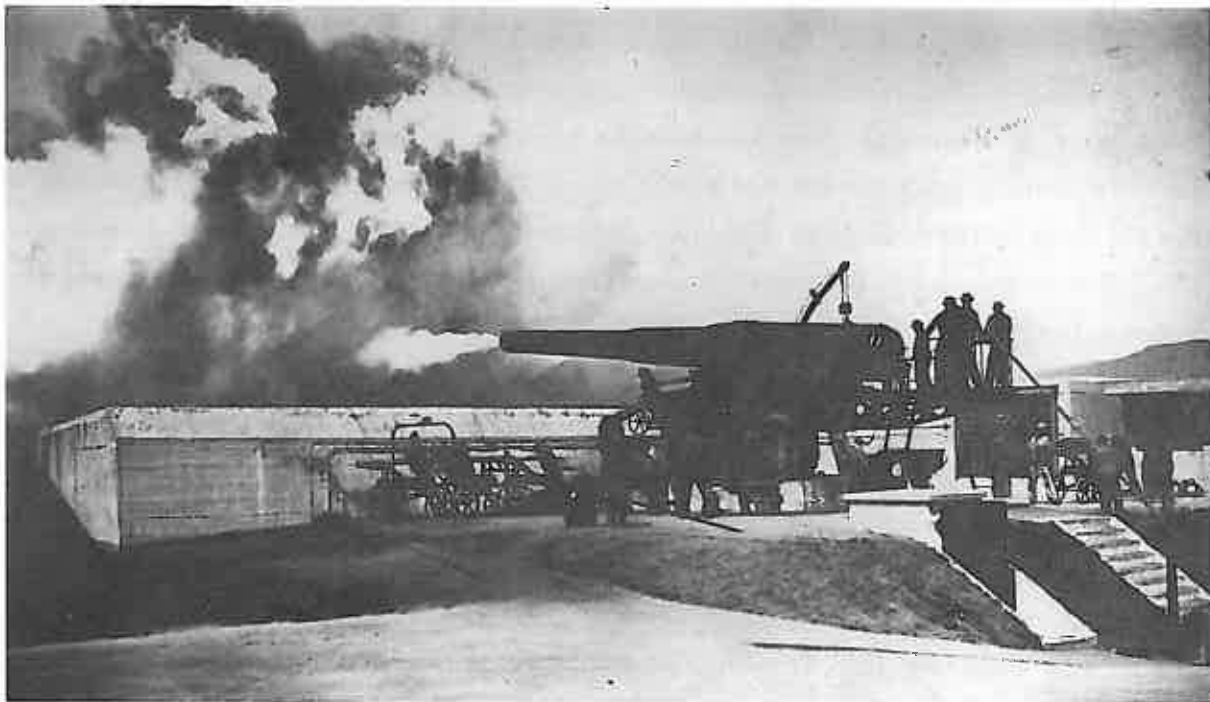
Below: "12-inch gun, Fort Point, Presidio, Cal. Sept. '98." This is believed to be the earliest photograph yet known of any of the heavy caliber guns at the Presidio. The two guns are 12-inch, breech-loading rifles on barbette carriages, possibly at Battery Godfrey, structure 1647 today. *Presidio Museum Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

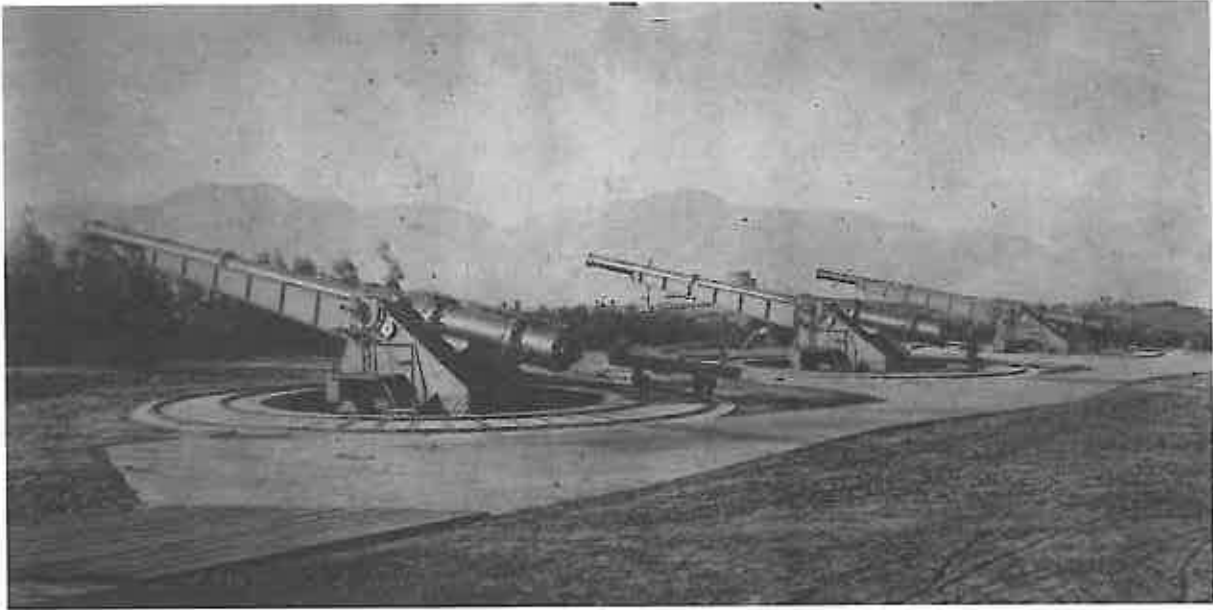




Above: Gun 1, Battery Godfrey, ready to fire. The soldier at right is working on the plotting board. The soldier at left is on the phone to fire control stations, plotting room, or battery commander. *National Park Service.*

Below: A 12-inch, breech-loading rifle, probably gun 1, practice firing, Battery Godfrey. From a postcard. *Presidio Museum Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*



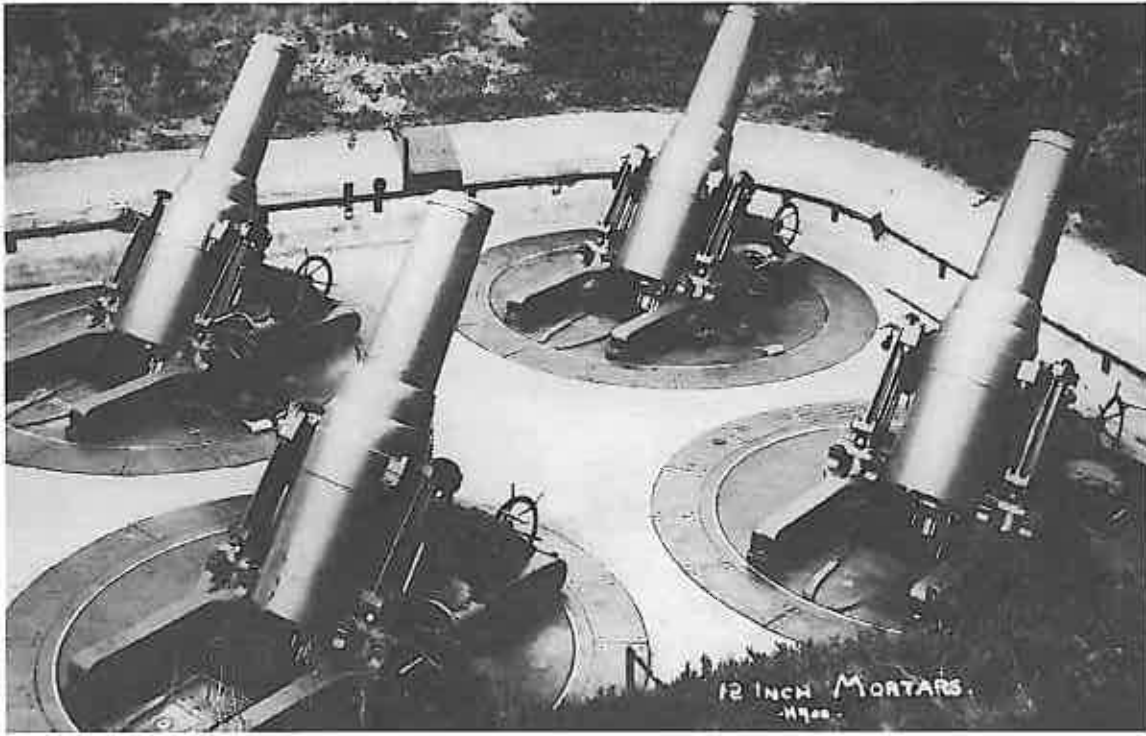


Battery Dynamite, 1399. Three 15-inch pneumatic guns emplaced at Fort Winfield Scott, 1895, for test firing. The earthworks was constructed later during the Spanish-American War. The Army did not approve of this type of weapon for coastal defense. View to the northwest. National Archives, Record Group 77, Office of the Chief of Engineers.

Area received notice that Battery Godfrey would fire the huge 12-inch gun at 11:00 A.M., September 20, 1895. The first of the 12-inch mortars in Battery Howe had already fired in February 1895, and all 16 mortars were mounted by June of that year.¹³

By the end of 1896 work had begun on two more batteries at Fort Winfield Scott: Saffold [1354], with two 12-inch guns on barbette carriages, and Lancaster [998], with three 12-inch rifles mounted on disappearing carriages. An armament report at that time recorded that seven 15-inch Rodmans remained in both East and West batteries, and the lower two tiers in the old masonry fort still held thirty-two 10-inch Rodmans and thirteen 8-inch converted rifles. Of the new works, Batteries Howe and Arthur Wagner had 16 mortars mounted, and Batteries Godfrey and Marcus Miller each had two of its three guns in place.¹⁴

While work progressed on these first modern batteries at Fort Winfield Scott, the U.S. Congress caused the Army to be involved with an unusual weapon, the "pneumatic dynamite gun." In 1888 Congress appropriated \$400,000 for the purchase of these guns and two experimental batteries, Sandy Hook, New Jersey, and Fort Winfield Scott, were established. The so-called Battery Dynamite [1399] south of Battery Godfrey, had three strange-looking guns mounted by December 1895. Dynamite's large power house, which had compressed air for



Battery McKinnon-Stotsenberg, first constructed as one battery having four pits, each pit having four 12-inch mortars. It was later divided into two batteries with two pits each. Due to crowding, two forward mortars (the two to the right in this photograph) were removed from pits C and D. Battery McKinnon-Stotsenberg was unique in that pits A and B retained all four of their weapons until 1944. *This view appeared on the cover of the August 30, 1919 issue of Liaison.*

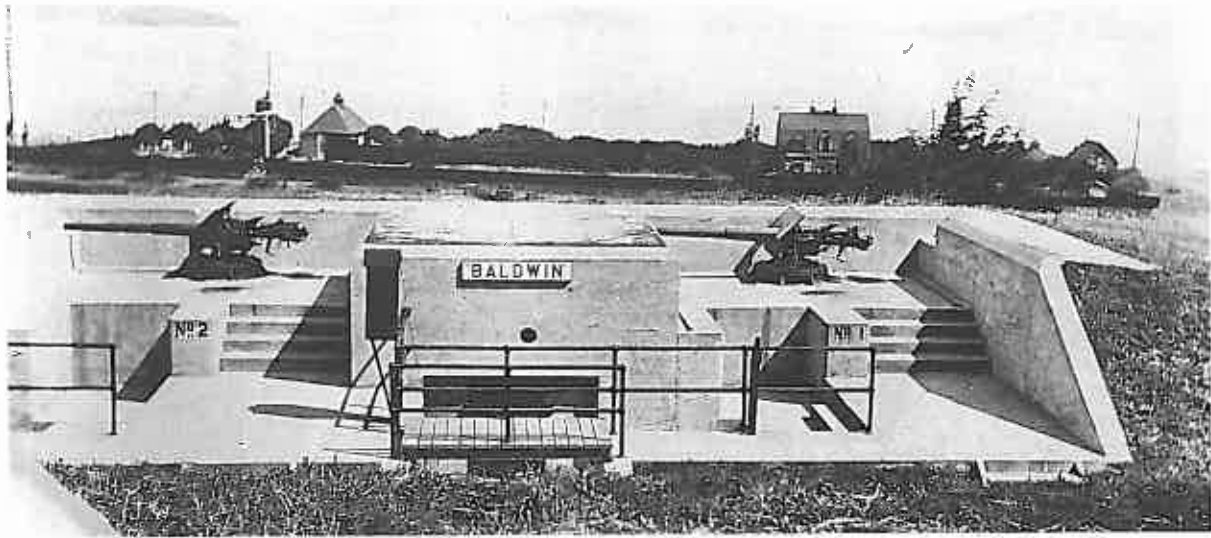
firing the guns, stood to the rear. Test firing of the weapons took place that month. Although results of the firing exceeded expectations, the Army remained unenthusiastic, saying that submarine mines were the best way to handle high explosives. Despite continuing congressional pressure no more dynamite batteries were built.

During the Spanish-American War, army engineers built high earthen traverses around Dynamite's silent gun emplacements and erected bombproof magazines and covered passageways. In 1901, however, the three guns were declared obsolete, and by 1904 they had been sold.¹⁵

Work progressed steadily on additional coastal batteries at Fort Winfield Scott:

Batteries William McKinnon-Stotsenberg [1430], with sixteen 12-inch mortars. Work began in July 1897.

Battery Cranston [1661], with two 10-inch guns on disappearing carriages.



Battery Baldwin, two 3-inch, 15-pounder, rapid-fire guns on balanced pillar mounts, circa 1905-1910. U.S. Life Saving Station is in the distance on its original, pre-1914 site. *Fort Point and Presidio Historical Association.*

Construction began in 1898.

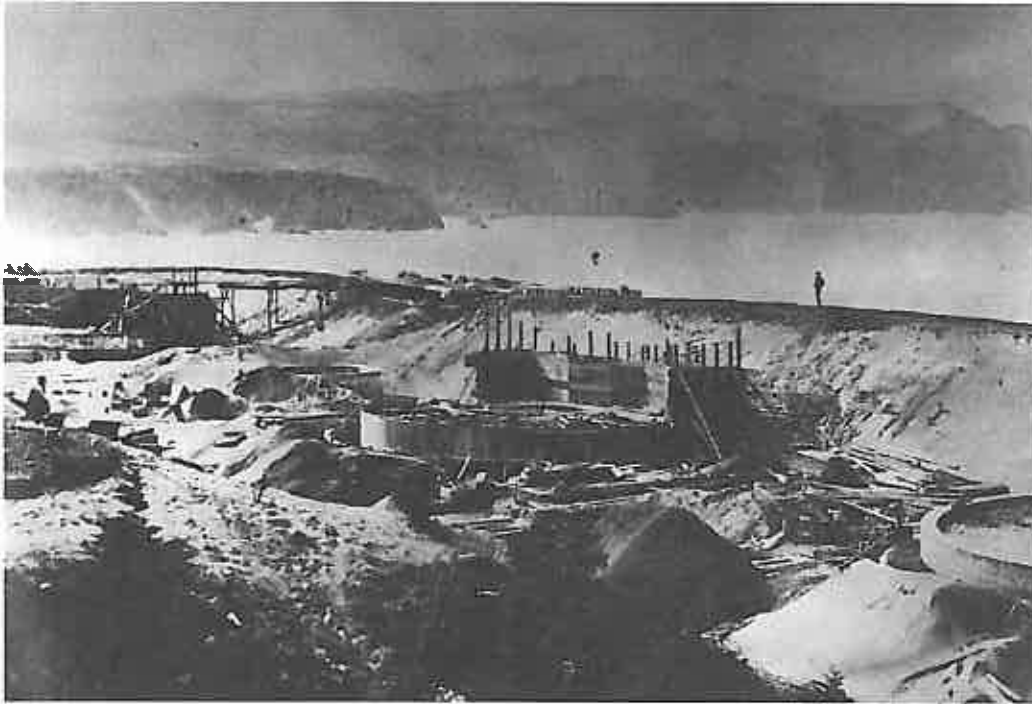
Battery Boutelle [1651], with three 5-inch rapid fire guns.

Battery Slaughter, with three 8-inch rifles on disappearing carriages. Construction got underway in 1898.

Work began on three other batteries in 1901: Sherwood [636] two 5-inch guns; Baldwin, two 3-inch rapid fire guns; and Blaney [635] four 15-pounder rapid fire guns.¹⁶

The last two Endicott batteries at Fort Winfield Scott were Chamberlin [1621] (constructed from 1902 to 1904), four 6-inch guns on disappearing carriages, and Crosby [1630], two 6-inch rifles on disappearing carriages. These 17 modern batteries formed 47 percent of San Francisco Bay's 36 coastal batteries at the beginning of the twentieth century. They and their companions provided an ample defense for San Francisco Harbor, the most important harbor on the west coast at that time.¹⁷

During the years the new batteries were under construction the Army retained some of the older guns at Fort Winfield Scott in case of an emergency and for training. An armament report in 1897 stated that all the 15-inch Rodmans had been removed from West Battery and five of them had been remounted in East Battery. The latter also had four 8-inch converted rifles (probably from the Presidio's practice battery). As for the artillery still in old Fort Point,

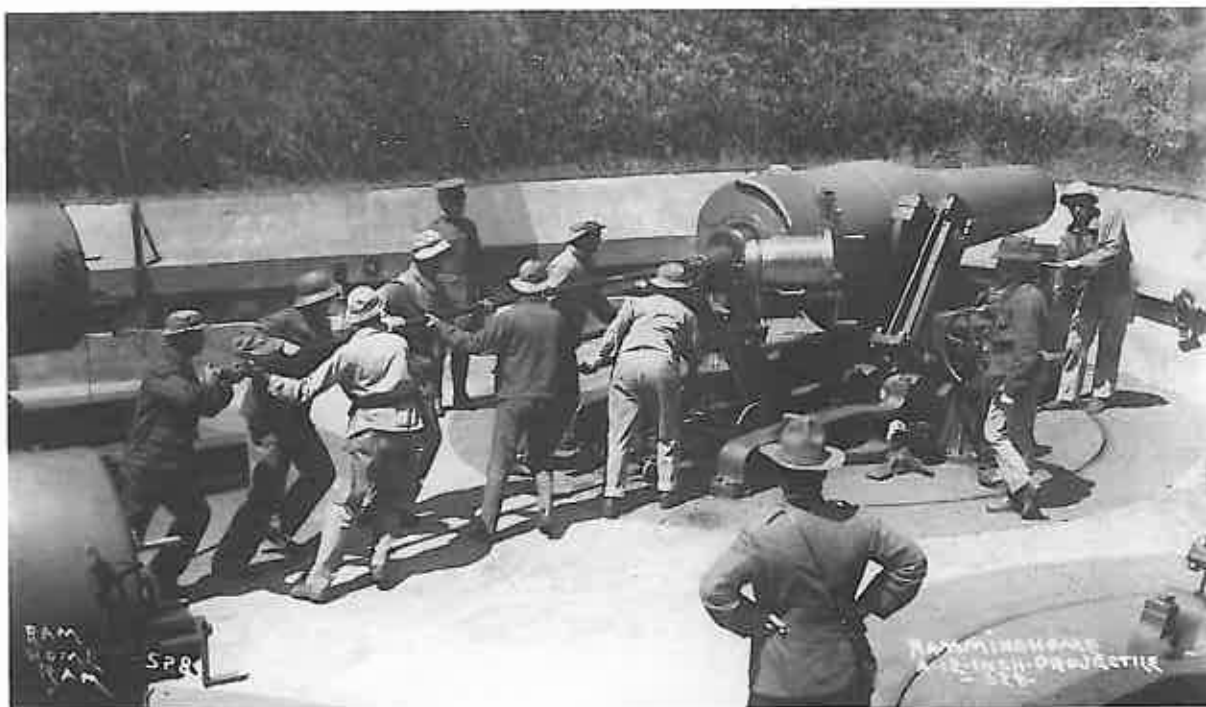


Construction of a seacoast battery believed to be Battery Chamberlin, 1902-1904. When completed, the battery had four 6-inch guns on disappearing carriages. *Collection of Col. Milton B. Halsey, Jr.*

the Army decided in 1898 to discontinue supplying them with ammunition. A year later all these guns were dismounted and most of them sold along with ten 15-inch Rodmans.¹⁸

The first recorded firing of the new batteries occurred in November 1900. While details of this event are lacking, a report indicated that Batteries Stotsenberg and Lancaster were involved. Those two reported the most damage from the shock effect. Four wooden latrines at Lancaster were so badly damaged that it was thought additional firing would destroy them. In June 1903 artillerymen undertook experimental salvo firing at Batteries Lancaster, Godfrey, Saffold, and Stotsenberg to determine blast effects. The data was needed to determine how far from the guns the fire control and battery commander stations should be to protect the delicate instruments.

The charges for the guns were 247 pounds of smokeless powder with cast-iron projectiles weighing 1,000 pounds; for the mortars, 53.4 pounds of smokeless powder with 800-pound cast-iron projectiles. At Lancaster, first a single shot was fired from each gun, then a salvo from the three weapons. The same sequence was followed at Godfrey, then at Saffold. Finally, a salvo from all sixteen 12-inch mortars at Stotsenberg concluded the test.



Above: "Ram Home Ram." Loading a 12-inch shell at Battery McKinnon-Stotsenberg. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

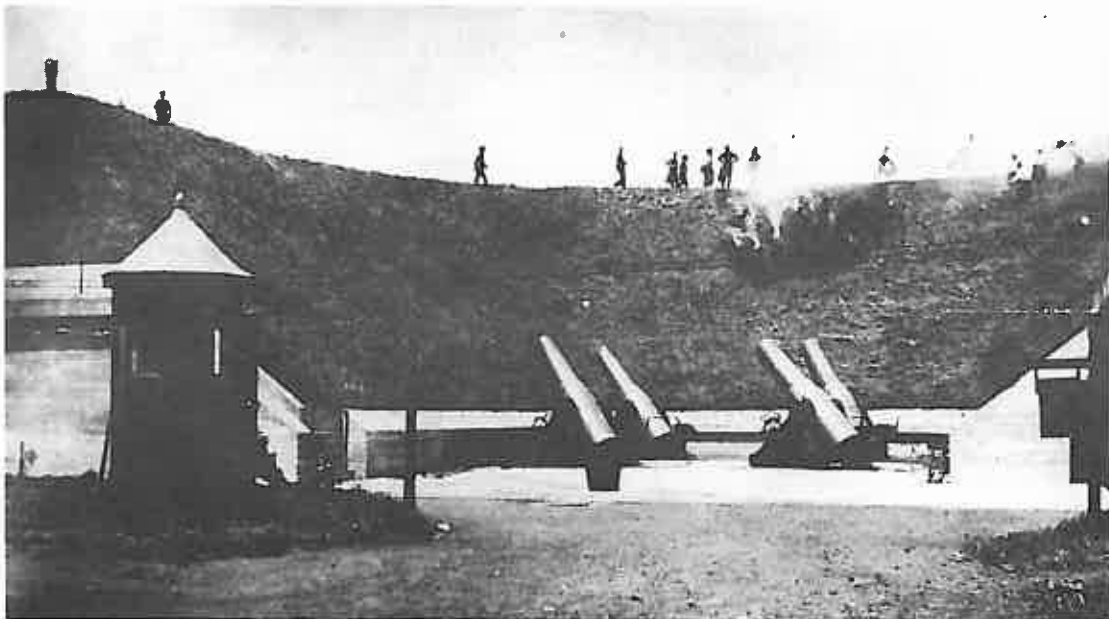
Below: Firing a 12-inch mortar, Battery McKinnon-Stotsenberg. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*





Above: Firing a 12-inch mortar, Battery McKinnon-Stotsenberg. Note the blast effect on the men. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Below: Salvo firing from Battery Stotsenberg, Pit 2, on June 5, 1903. The firing set grass on the slopes ablaze. Soldiers are beating out the fire with coats. *U.S. Army photograph, Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*





Above: Fort Winfield Scott. View east from the mine depot wharf, 984. Note the concrete seawall. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Below: Mine depot wharf, 984, circa 1939. The two buildings with triangular vents, 985 and 986, are mine loading houses built in 1908. The building to the right, 989, a plumbing shop, became headquarters for Fort Point National Historic Site. The wharf was reconstructed during World War II. Quarters on the slopes have been demolished. *Collection of Col. Milton B. Halsey, Jr., Fort Point and Presidio Historical Association.*



At Lancaster closed doors split, hinges broke, and, again, the latrines were damaged. Windows in a building 100 yards away were broken as were windows at Fort Miley, 2 miles distant. Similar damage was reported at Saffold and Godfrey. At the time these batteries fired, the lighthouse on Alcatraz Island shook. Stotsenberg's salvo caused extensive damage to windows, heavy doors, and latrines. The grassy parapets about the battery caught fire and artillerymen scampered to extinguish the fire with their coats. At the Marine Hospital 800 yards away plaster cracked and windows broke. Several citizens in San Francisco submitted small claims for damages.

The conclusions drawn from the experiment were that all doors and windows must be open, battery commanders' stations be at least 100 yards from guns, positions to the side were safer than those to the rear of a battery, and position-finding instruments must be on firm and solid bases and other instruments freely suspended.¹⁹

Submarine Mine Depot

The first submarine mines, then called torpedoes, arrived at San Francisco in 1884. They were laid in San Francisco Harbor for the first time in June 1898, during the Spanish-American War. Neither the Presidio nor Fort Winfield Scott played a role in this undertaking. In 1903 responsibility for submarine mine defense passed from engineers to artillery, and the Presidio was selected to be the site of a new mine depot. Construction, however, did not get underway until 1907. During the next three years work continued on the facilities located at the west end of the lower Presidio within the yet unidentified boundaries of Fort Winfield Scott. The "torpedo wharf" [984] was completed in 1907. Other construction included a 1,330-foot tramway from the wharf to the loading rooms, cable tanks, and main storehouse. Eight four-wheeled, 3-foot-gauge flat cars, each with a capacity of 10,000 pounds, were procured for transporting the mines. The main storehouse had a capacity of 294 mines. Galvanized iron on structural steel covered the walls. Inside a 3,000-pound, hand-powered traveling crane moved the mines.

The depot also included two torpedo loading rooms, galvanized iron walls on wood-frame, each measuring 22 feet by 44 feet and containing a cable tank. Two adjoining explosives rooms, 8 feet by 10 feet, were also constructed with galvanized iron on wood-frame walls. The cable tank building had three large tanks for storing the submarine cable.

The mine wharf, rebuilt on the eve of World War II, was numbered 984; the mine storehouse 979, the two loading rooms 985 and 986, and the two explosives rooms 987 (no longer extant). The cable tank building, completed in 1910, was later demolished. Near the depot, an engineer storehouse [983] was built in 1908, and an engineer plumbing shop [989] was erected in 1909. In 1994 this last structure served as a headquarters for the Fort Point National Historic Site. On the north side of Lincoln Boulevard, across from Crissy Field's bachelor officers' quarters, stood a fuel oil tank for the mine planters, and a fuel pump house next to it (the Army gave building numbers to neither).

In connection with the submarine mining project, army engineers constructed a concrete mine casemate [1600] at Baker Beach in 1912. This structure was by no means bombproof, the walls being 8 inches thick and the roof tar and gravel over wood. Not until World War I were the seaward and end walls increased to 5 feet in thickness and a 5-foot concrete roof added with 9 feet of sand over that. This mining casemate controlled one of the mine fields planted outside the harbor.²⁰

Electricity

By 1900 electricity had come to the new batteries. In February the San Francisco district engineer reported that three "electric lighting plants" had been installed, one for batteries Lancaster, Cranston, and Miller; one for Saffold and Crosby; and a third for the McKinnon-Stotsenberg mortars. Shortly thereafter, Battery Dynamite having been declared obsolete, officers discussed the possibility of using the battery's power plant for lighting not only the fortifications but possibly the entire Presidio. The 1906 earthquake destroyed the power plant building, putting a temporary halt to further electrification. But in 1910 a new central power plant for all of Fort Scott's batteries became operational on the same site. The specially designed concrete building [1398] contained a boiler room, engine room, shop, storehouse, and lavatory.²¹

New uses were found for Battery Dynamite itself. By 1912 the Army used it for storage. Following World War I an artillery fire control switchboard and a post telephone switchboard for the fort were installed and two of its rooms converted to sleeping quarters.²²



Above: Mine loading room no. 1 at the submarine mine depot east of Fort Winfield Scott and just west of the base of the mine depot pier. Note the three-foot gauge tramway. View toward the west. This is today's building 985. *Fort Point National Historic Site, NPS.*

Below: "Awaiting the signal to swing a mine into position under the waves." U.S. Army Mine Planter *Colonel George Armistead* working with mines near the entrance to San Francisco Bay. It was based at the mine depot pier near Fort Point, 1909. From "Forts Under the Sea," *Sunset Magazine*, October 1909, negative on file at Golden Gate National Recreation Area Interpretation Division, NPS.



Damage Control

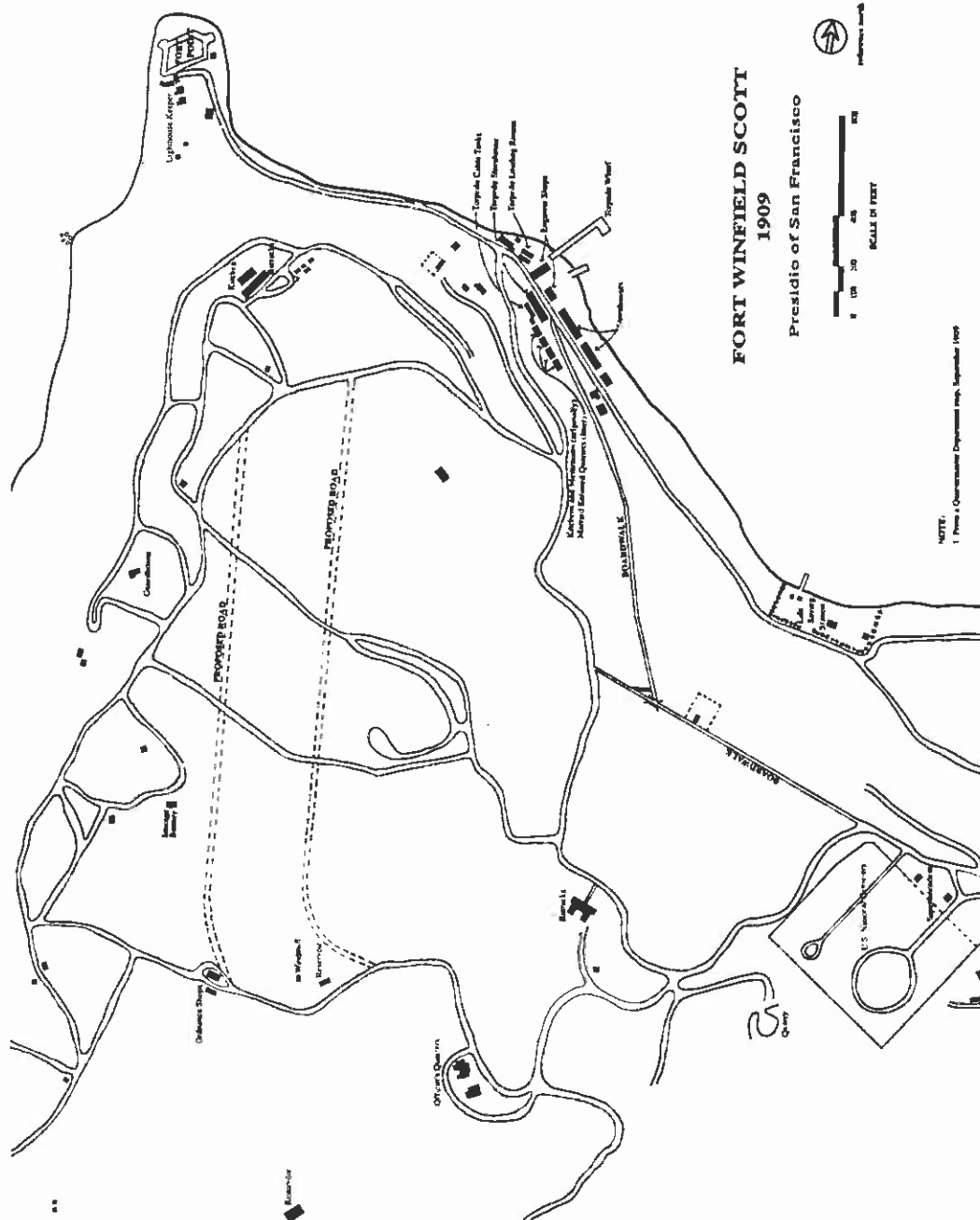
Following the great earthquake of 1906, army engineers carefully inspected the fortifications to determine the extent of damage. Rumors had already spread that Battery Chamberlin had been wrecked. The inspection showed that the wreckage consisted of a surface drain having cracked and a terra cotta chimney broken. Other batteries suffered similar minor damage and their fighting efficiency remained unimpaired. New cracks had appeared in the concrete and some old cracks had widened, causing leaking. Window glass had broken and some doors had become difficult to operate. Earthen slopes had slipped but repair was possible.

Safety was always an important factor in the operations of the batteries and Fort Winfield Scott's record in this regard was remarkably free of serious incident. In the spring of 1909 two similar accidents resulted in investigations by boards of officers. At Battery Stotsenberg the gun crew dropped a projectile into the well of mortar 1, pit A, breaking the distribution box. Three weeks later a projectile fell into the well of mortar 3 at Battery Howe, this time breaking the translator roller, equalizing pipe, and the ladder. In neither case did personnel injuries occur.²³

World War I and World War II

When the First World War began in August 1914 with the German assault on Belgium and France, Germany's modern guns demonstrated that Belgium's fortifications of the 1890s had become out of date. Further, the British production of the *Queen Elizabeth* class of battleships in 1914, armed with 15-inch steel guns, alarmed American officers. They swiftly concluded that the United States must have coastal guns of at least as great a caliber and range. The major direct fire gun of the future would be the immense 16-inch rifle. The 12-inch gun was still important but it needed changes in the carriage so as to increase its elevation and a lighter projectile. When those changes were made the 12-inch rifle would have an effective range of 22,000 yards.

Fort Winfield Scott received neither the 16-inch nor the improved 12-inch weapons, although the Harbor Defenses of San Francisco acquired both. The new weapons were located so as to intercept an enemy farther out to sea — at Forts Barry, Funston, and Cronkhite. While continuing to be armed, many of Fort Winfield Scott's batteries would soon become obsolete.



NPS drawing no. 641-20494.



Above: Presidio of San Francisco, circa 1942. Battery Chamberlin after emplacements 2 and 3 were converted from six-inch, breech-loading rifles on Buffington-Crozier "disappearing" carriages to six-inch rifles on pedestal mounts with shields. Camouflage is visible overhead. This is today's structure 1621. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Below: Battery Chamberlin, 1621, circa 1942. Six-inch, breech-loading rifles on pedestal mounts with shields in emplacements 2 and 3. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*



In 1915 the Army decided that mortar Batteries Howe and Arthur Wagner no longer needed to be manned, inasmuch as mortars at Forts Barry and Miley were more effective. Beginning in late 1917, after the United States entered the Great War, the Army began dismounting Fort Winfield Scott's armament:

Battery Chamberlin. The four 6-inch guns and their disappearing carriages were dismounted in 1917 and sent to the Watervliet Arsenal in New York. (In 1920 the battery was modified and emplacements 2 and 3 rearmed with two 6-inch guns on pedestal mounts with shields.)

Battery Slaughter. The three 8-inch guns were dismounted in 1917 also and shipped to Watervliet.

Battery Marcus Miller. The three 10-inch guns were dismounted in 1920.

Battery Boutelle. The three 5-inch guns were dismounted before February 1918 for service as field artillery abroad.

Battery Lancaster. Two of the 12-inch guns were dismounted in May 1918 and sent to Watervliet Arsenal. The third gun was moved a month later to Battery Chester at Fort Miley.

Battery Baldwin. Four 15-pounder, 3-inch guns were dismounted in 1920.

Battery Arthur Wagner. All eight of the 12-inch mortars were also dismounted in 1920.

A total of 23 heavy weapons remained at Scott after World War I: Battery Stotsenberg, eight 12-inch mortars; Battery William McKinnon, four 12-inch mortars; Battery Cranston, two 10-inch guns; Battery Godfrey, three 12-inch guns; Battery Saffold, two 12-inch guns; Battery Crosby, two 6-inch guns; and, after 1920, Battery Chamberlin, two 6-inch guns.²⁴

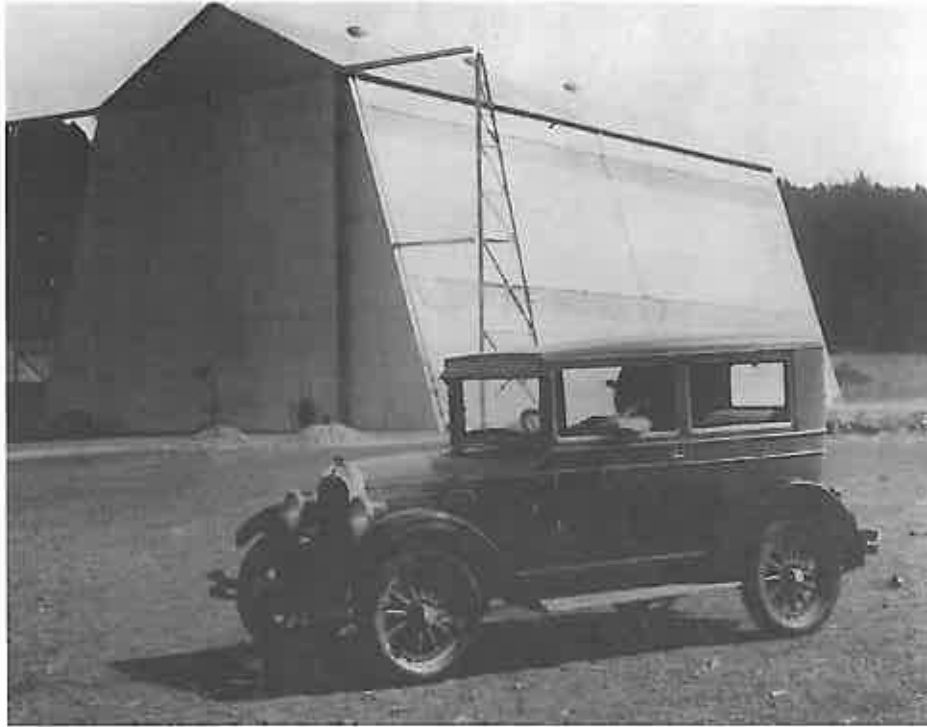
A new element entered San Francisco's defenses in 1920 with the arrival from Fort Omaha, Nebraska, of the 14th and 24th Balloon Companies, U.S. Army Air Service for duty with the coast defenses. Both outfits first occupied quarters in the World War I artillery cantonment north of Fort Winfield Scott's parade ground. The 14th Company then spent the summer in the Pacific Northwest, returning to San Francisco in October. No doubt encouraged by San Francisco's sometimes fierce winds, the secretary of war reported that balloon stations were being constructed at Forts Barry and Winfield Scott at a cost of \$205,000. Balloon hangars, hydrogen generator houses, and fields for maneuvering the winches were constructed at both posts. At Scott this work involved clearing trees, grading, and hauling out rock (to Crissy



Above: Battery Cranston, 1661, two 10-inch guns on disappearing carriages, circa 1917-1918. The gun crew poses with the gun in recoil position. *National Park Service.*

Below: Battery Cranston, circa 1917-1918. Here, the gun is raised to firing position. *National Park Service.*





Coast artillery observation balloon hangar that stood near the southwest corner of the Presidio reservation, near the present site of buildings 1750-1752, circa 1930. The automobile is a 1928 "Whippet Four." Identification courtesy of Cornelius Hauck of Cincinnati, Ohio. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Field). The stations were completed in 1921. Meanwhile, the 14th Company kept its balloons at Fort Funston, while the 24th Company, now stationed at Fort Baker, kept its balloons at Fort Barry.

Balloons had been used extensively in France for observation purposes during World War I. Now, at San Francisco the companies worked to develop a system of tracking moving vessels for the benefit of the coastal batteries. This concept was not considered especially successful, and in a change of tactics coastal guns fired at targets using only data supplied by the balloons. In the first test, out of 12 rounds fired, nine were hits. Other successful exercises followed, making the San Francisco defenses the first in the nation to employ manned balloons working with coastal weapons.

In 1921 Crissy Field became fully operational and the personnel of both companies moved there for quarters and assisted in beautifying the area. A date has not been determined for the departure of the companies from San Francisco nor the reasons for the move. It is known that



View of a 12-inch gun on barbette carriage. Note the armor-piercing shell on the hoist. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Crissy Field's airplanes continued to work with the coastal defenses, perhaps more efficiently than the balloons. Perhaps it was the wind. The record is silent on this topic after 1921.²⁵

Following much discussion and planning, Fort Winfield Scott received its first antiaircraft weapons in 1920. The two 3-inch guns on fixed pedestal mounts were emplaced on concrete gun plugs constructed on the left flank of Battery Godfrey. Five years later both weapons were dismounted and transferred to Fort Funston.

Construction of the Golden Gate Bridge in the 1930s affected the coastal defenses of Scott. Portions of Batteries Lancaster and Slaughter, long since disarmed but whose magazines were used for storage, were destroyed. Battery Baldwin was said to have been buried by the construction of the bridge approach road, Doyle Drive, as was a portion of old East Battery. The Golden Gate Bridge District not only saved the ancient masonry fort at Fort Point from destruction, it agreed to finance the replacement of other defense elements that had been lost to construction, including several fire control stations, shops, and ammunition storage facilities. The District paid for building the bombproof Central Reserve Magazine at Fort Winfield

Scott [1470 and 1471], at a cost of \$125,000. The magazine had a capacity of 1,200 rounds of antiaircraft ammunition, 1,600 rounds of 155mm shell, 1,600 155mm propelling charges, small arms ammunition, and 200 rounds of reserve 16-inch ammunition for Fort Funston.²⁶

The world being at unrest in 1937, the U.S. Army prepared a massive document, "Annexes to Harbor Defense Project, Harbor Defense of San Francisco, 1937." A section in the document listed older batteries that would be retained only until a modernization program was completed. Only three of these batteries, still armed, were at Fort Winfield Scott: Saffold, two 12-inch guns (indirect fire, entire water area); Godfrey, three 12-inch guns (direct fire, main channel); and Crosby, two 6-inch guns (direct fire, main channel). Of the batteries to be retained after modernization was completed, only one of Scott's batteries made the list — Chamberlin, two 6-inch guns (direct fire, main channel).

The same document set forth the artillery fire control installations required in the future. Those listed for Fort Winfield Scott:

Harbor Defense Station, a large two-story concrete structure at an elevation of 307 feet [above mean sea level], located on top of the old Battery Dynamite.²⁷

Group 4 Station, Primary Armament at Forts Winfield Scott and Baker, located on Rob Hill at an elevation of 378 feet. Demolished at an unknown date. Only a trace remains visible.

Battery Chamberlin's stations: BC B¹, on left flank of the battery, and B³ at Fort Point, elevation 134 feet.²⁸

Battery Crosby's BC B¹ station stood behind the battery at elevation 245 feet (not extant).

Battery Saffold's stations at Scott were the BC station between the two guns, elevation 317 feet, and the B¹S¹ station on the left flank of the battery, elevation 309 feet [see footnote 27].

Battery Godfrey's one station at Scott, BC B¹, was at the battery, elevation 275 feet.

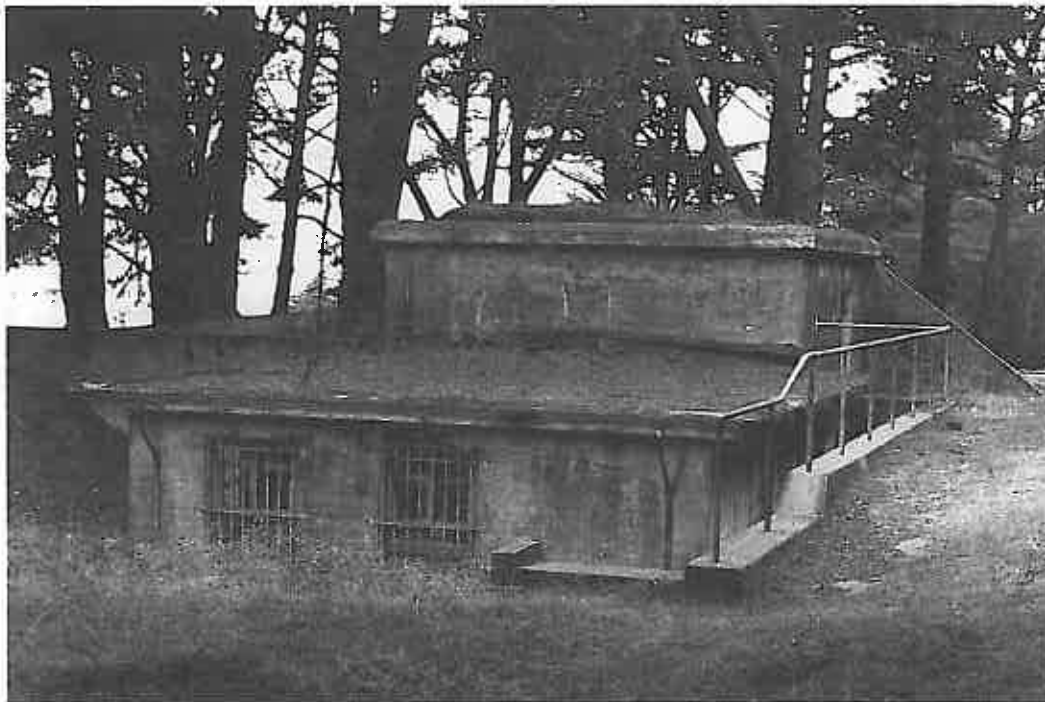
The Main Channel minefield had two stations on the reservation: MII¹ at Fort Winfield Scott at an elevation of 296 feet and MII² at an elevation of 127 feet near Fort Point.

The one coastal searchlight at Scott called for in the 1937 project was Searchlight 8 mounted on top of the old brick fort.²⁹



Above: Fire control station, 1344, for Battery Saffold, Fort Winfield Scott, as it would be seen from the ocean. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, July 1990.*

Below: Battery Saffold fire control station. View toward the north. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, July 1990.*



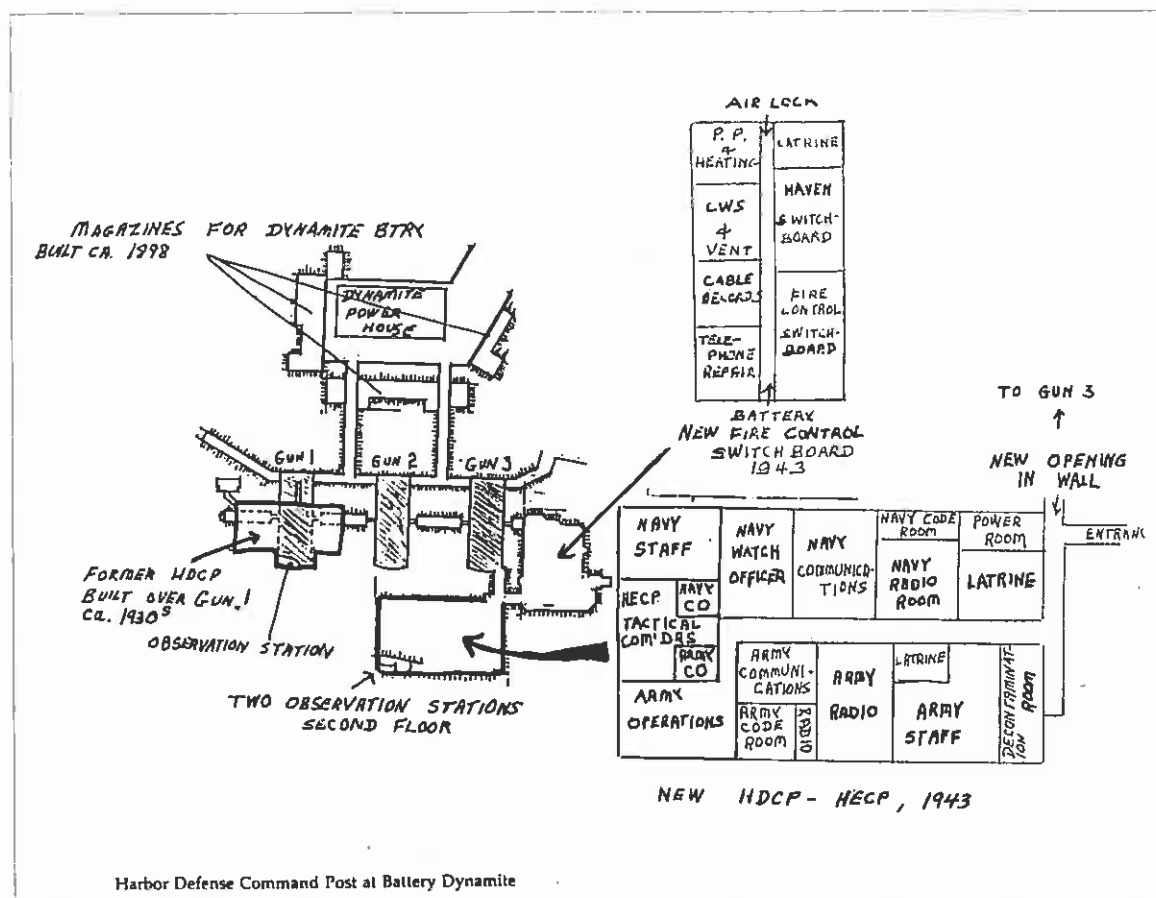
World War II wrought considerable changes in Fort Winfield Scott's defenses. In the months following Pearl Harbor a number of new batteries, primarily anti-motor torpedo boat weapons, machine guns, and 40mm antiaircraft guns guarded the headlands. Two batteries were established on the barbette tier (roof) of old Fort Point: Batteries Gate and Point, each two 3-inch guns, and Battery Scott, one 37mm gun, were on the seawall outside the fort. Battery Baker, two 90mm guns on fixed mounts and two mobile 90mm guns, was located on Baker Beach. A second "Battery Scott," consisting of a 37mm gun and a .50 caliber machine gun, stood in front of Battery Crosby.

Behind Battery Marcus Miller the four weapons of Antiaircraft Battery 6 stood guard. Another .50 caliber machine gun stood on top of Battery Dynamite. A 40mm gun was located in the area east of the Golden Gate Bridge toll plaza. Just north of Fort Winfield Scott's southern boundary a 40mm antiaircraft gun stood guard. Also at the fort a radar[†] set, SCR296, was mounted on a knoll north of Battery Chamberlin. In the vicinity of Batteries William McKinnon and Stotsenberg a .50 caliber machine gun and a 40mm gun offered protection. Other 40mm guns were mounted west of the reservoir [313] and between Batteries Sherwood and Blaney.³⁰

While these antiaircraft and anti-motor torpedo boat weapons had become important in San Francisco's defenses, the 50-year-old Endicott batteries were rapidly becoming obsolete, especially after the United States' victory at the Battle of Midway in 1942 when the threat of a Japanese invasion of the west coast faded. In 1943 the Army took steps to salvage the remaining batteries at Scott: Cranston, Saffold, Crosby, Stotsenberg, McKinnon, and Godfrey (the first of the then-modern batteries to have been completed). Only Battery Chamberlin's two 6-inch guns survived World War II.

During the war the Harbor Defenses of San Francisco installed an emergency communications system between the main fire control command installations in case cables or radios could not be used. Due to the proximity of the several forts this system of blinker lights worked successfully, although an emergency never arose. The lights were installed on Wolf Ridge, Point Bonita, Horseshoe Bay, Fort Point, Fort Scott highlands (possibly Rob Hill), Baker Beach, Fort Miley, and south Fort Funston.³¹

Early in the war the decision was made to have the mine casemate at Baker Beach control the mines at both the Main and South channels. Because the structure proved too small for such



Plan. Harbor Defense Command Post, 1898-1943. Erwin Thompson from correspondence in National Archives, Record Group 77, Harbor Defense Files.

an operation, the engineers recommended construction of a new combined casemate having separate facilities for each field. The new casemate [1601] was completed in 1943.³²

At the beginning of the war, the Harbor Defenses of San Francisco had a Harbor Defense Command Post (HDCP), which was the Army operations center for the defense of San Francisco Harbor, in a 37-foot by 87-foot structure erected on top of 18-foot concrete bents above the floor of the pit of Gun 1 in old Battery Dynamite. Two wood-frame wings on either side and resting on the parapet, constructed in 1942, failed to provide adequate space for the HDCP and associated activities. Moreover, the HDCP and its wings had only wood and graveled tarpaper roofs, hardly adequate in case of attack. The Antiaircraft Groupment Command Post was housed elsewhere in an abandoned casemate. The Fort Winfield Scott Fire Control Switchboard occupied a cross corridor of Battery Dynamite, which was much too crowded

and which would be collapsed by a bomb hit. Also, the power plant for the HDCP operated from another Battery Dynamite corridor. General DeWitt wrote Washington in December 1942 urging the construction of a new combination Harbor Defense Command Post — Harbor Entrance Control Post (HDCP-HECP) saying: "Further delay cannot be tolerated." Washington responded negatively saying that offensive activities had a higher priority over defensive activities at that time. The Harbor Defenses did not acquire a new bombproof HDCP-HECP until 1943, this too, being located on top of the parapets of Battery Dynamite. A new fire control switchboard (not bombproof) was constructed adjacent to it.³³

The War Department had named the Fort Point area Fort Winfield Scott in 1882 but did not specify a boundary line separating it from the Presidio. In 1912 coast artillery troops occupied the new facilities of Fort Winfield Scott and again there appeared not to have been an official boundary line. Not until the last years of World War II did a notice appear indicating that the boundary had been fixed: "The interior boundary between Fort Winfield Scott and the Presidio of San Francisco was last defined by letter, Hq. Fort Winfield Scott and Sub-Posts to the Commanding General, Ninth Service Command, dated 2 May 1944, subject: 'Boundary Line Between Ft. Winfield Scott and Presidio of San Francisco.'" Ironically, Fort Winfield Scott was soon to revert to being a part of the Presidio of San Francisco.³⁴

Within two months of Japan's surrender in August 1945, coast artillery troops no longer manned any of San Francisco's seacoast batteries. In 1950 the Coast Artillery Corps merged with the field artillery into a single artillery arm, including air defense (antiaircraft) artillery. The Army quickly found new uses for Scott's batteries. At Cranston a magazine became a dormitory for personnel assigned to the Scott Signal Station [1665]. Mortar Battery Howe-Wagner served as an air raid shelter for civilians. Batteries Sherwood and Blaney were transferred to the Presidio and used as storage. Similarly, William McKinnon and Stotsenberg became storage facilities for ammunition and other materials. The U.S. Navy continued to occupy the Harbor Defense Command Post until 1959. Even then it maintained navy triangulation and Shoran† stations at the Presidio. In 1961 an engineer company used Battery Dynamite as a training area. Sixth U.S. Army designated Battery Dynamite as an alternate emergency operations center in 1981. An inspection of this facility in 1986 revealed that water containers were empty and rodents had got into rations.³⁵



Fort Winfield Scott when it was the headquarters of Nike missile defense units, circa 1970. Note Nike Ajax (left) and Nike Hercules (right) missiles flanking the flagstaff, 1200. View toward the southeast. From left to right: barracks 1216, 1217 and 1218 are in the background. *Collection of Amy Meyer.*

The U.S. Army had maintained coastal defenses at the Presidio of San Francisco for almost 100 years. Then, suddenly, they had gone. But a new era was beginning when the Antiaircraft Command developed into the U.S. Air Defense Command.

Missiles

In 1946 the Artillery School, Seacoast began operations at Fort Winfield Scott. Despite the name, the school's curriculum concentrated on antiaircraft defense. The huge guns of the Endicott era were replaced by 90mm and 120mm dual-purpose guns, and radars. In 1951 Fort Baker became the headquarters for the Western Aircraft Command and Fort Winfield Scott became armed with 90mm and 120mm guns. By 1954 the first Nike Ajax missiles had been activated in the Bay Area. Fort Winfield Scott became the site of Nike Missile Battery SF-89. The troops occupied the fort's quarters and offices while the missile launch area was located in the southern part of the post. This was the only Nike battery to be given a name — Battery Caulfield, after a former commander. Lt. Col. Thomas D. Caulfield was reportedly killed in an automobile accident in 1955.³⁶

The battery came under the withering criticism of a congressman in 1959 when he said that it was operated with "shocking laxity." The Army denied the charge. The regular troops transferred in 1960 and a unit of the California National Guard took control of Battery Caulfield. Although the advanced Nike Hercules missile was introduced to the Bay Area in 1958, Fort Winfield Scott's battery continued to operate with its Ajax missiles until the battery was inactivated about 1961.

The Nike era had but a short life. In 1974 the U.S. Army closed the last Nike Hercules batteries in the Bay Area. These post-World War II years were important, nevertheless, as the United States engaged in another type of defense; a defense needed to meet the challenges of the Cold War. Some have said that San Francisco's coastal defenses had never been needed because there had never been any attacks. Others said that there had never been attacks because the coastal defenses were there.

The Endicott construction program of the 1890s and early 1900s demanded adequate facilities for the coast artillery troops reasonably close to the emplacements. Thus was the post of Fort Winfield Scott finally realized.



Above: Gun crew and a 12-inch, breech-loading rifle on a barbette carriage, Battery Godfrey, circa 1915. This photograph appeared in a 1919 issue of the Coast Artillery magazine, *Liaison*, *The Courier of the Big Gun Corps*. From a postcard. National Park Service.

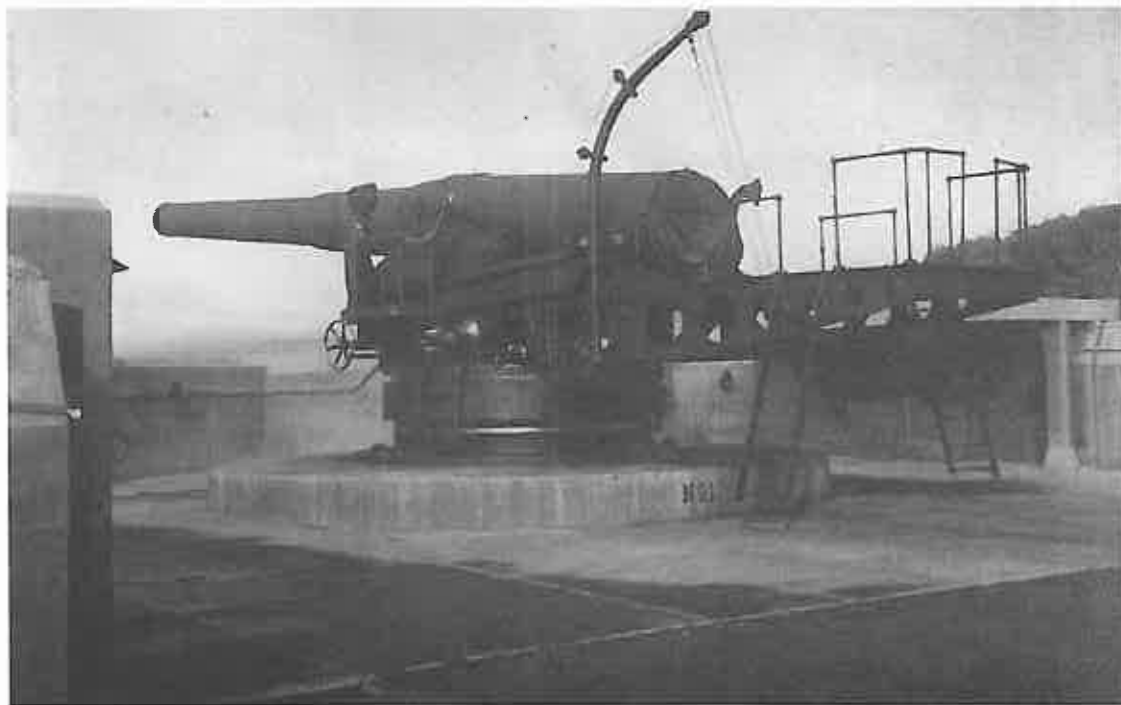
Below: Practice firing of gun no. 3, Battery Godfrey (two 12-inch rifles on barbette carriages). From an undated postcard. Presidio Army Museum Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.





Above: Battery Saffold, 1354, February 1921. Two 12-inch, breech-loading rifled guns on barbette carriages were emplaced in 1898, and removed in 1943. *U.S. Army photograph, Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Below: Gun No. 1 (12-inch, breech-loading) at Battery Saffold, circa 1920. *Charles Hawkins Collection, Fort Point National Historic Site.*

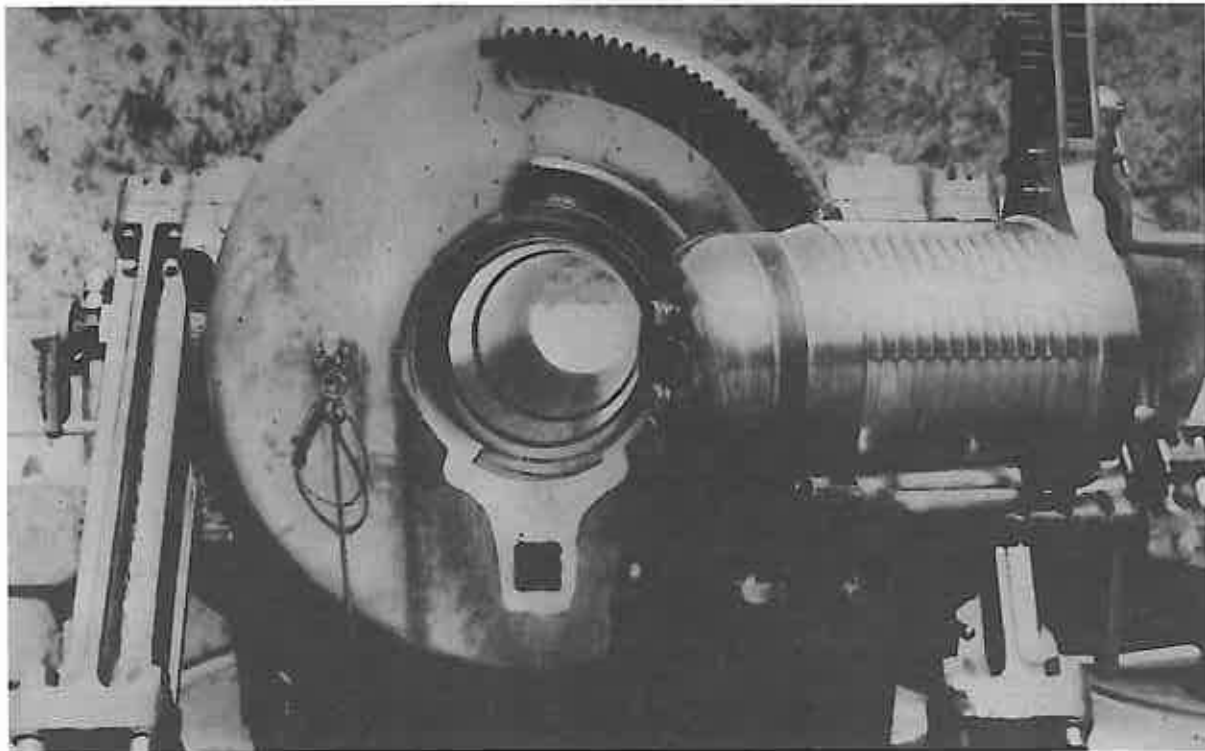




Above: Battery Saffold, probably gun no. 1, circa 1920. *Charles Hawkins Collection.*

Below: Two of Battery Saffold's three 12-inch guns. "Lands End" is visible at right, circa 1920. View to the southwest. *Charles Hawkins Collection.*

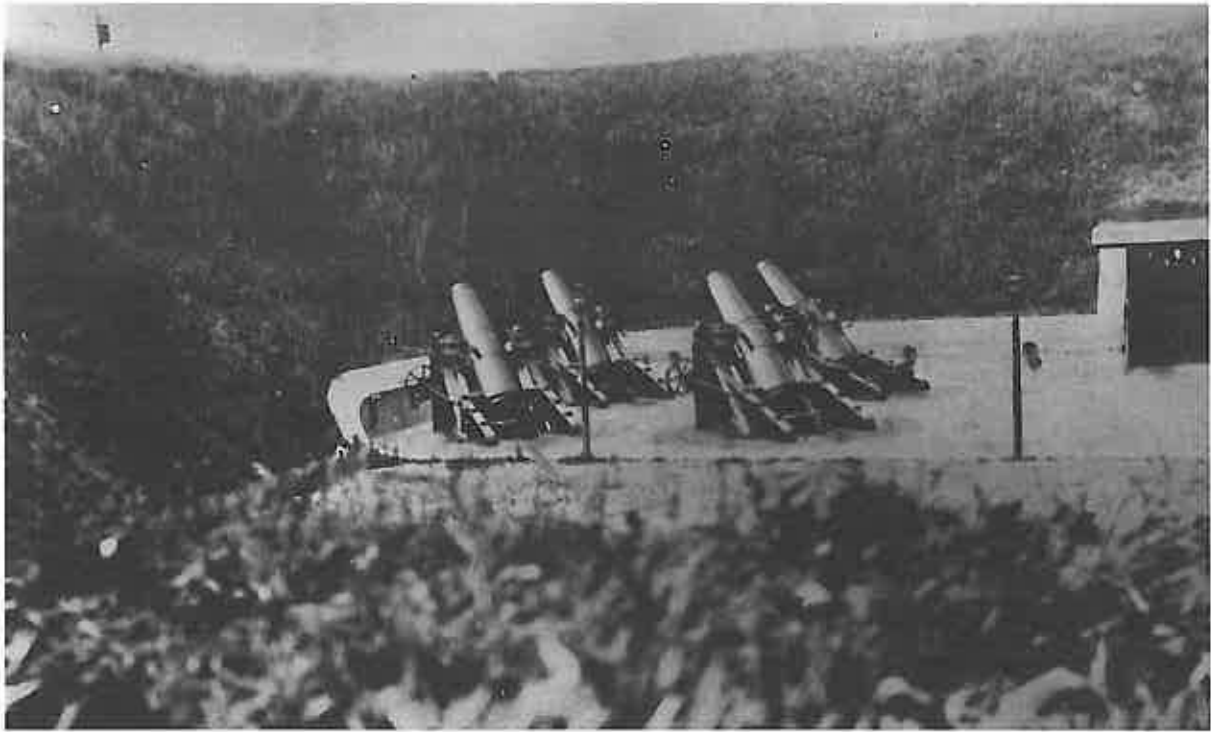




Above: A 12-inch, rifled mortar, breech-block open, circa 1915. *Presidio Museum Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Below: Battery Howe-Wagner, 12-inch, breech-loading mortars, Fort Winfield Scott. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*





Above: Battery Howe-Wagner, 12-inch, breech-loading mortars, Fort Winfield Scott. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Below: Two views of a 12-inch, breech-loading mortar in firing position, Battery McKinnon-Stotsenberg, Fort Winfield Scott. Left: circa 1915 view. *From a postcard. National Park Service.* Right: *Collection of Col. Milton B. Halsey, Jr.*





Above: The "covered way" to the rear of Battery Godfrey. This corridor offered protection to artillerymen. View toward the south. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, September 1990.*

Below: Battery Boutelle, 1651, three 5-inch, rapid fire guns on balanced pillar mounts, Fort Winfield Scott. View to the northwest. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, circa 1990.*





Mortar Battery
Mc Kinnon -
Stotsenberg, 1430.
Constructed in
1898, originally
with sixteen 12-
inch, breech-load-
ing mortars, later
reduced to eight.
View from the east-
southeast. NPS pho-
tograph by Gordon
Chappell, August
1991.

Chapter 16 Notes:

1. Langellier, *El Presidio*, pp. 36–144. A butcher steel is a knife sharpener that looks like a rattail file.
2. *San Francisco Morning Call*, September 18, 1893; *San Francisco Examiner*, September 7, 1893; Bearss, *Fort Point*, p. 316. The fate of this gun is unknown, as there are no iron guns known to be of Spanish origin at the Presidio today.
3. NPS, *National Register Registration Forms*, pp. 7–62 and 7–199. Seven more of these Peruvian guns exist in the United States, six as landscape features at the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, and one, “S. BRVNO,” at the Washington Navy Yard at Washington, D.C. All six of those at Annapolis were die-stamped around the muzzle with a steel die, “TAKEN BY THE NAVY IN CALIFORNIA—1847.” It is possible that two or more of the six came from the PSF. One Annapolis gun, “IESVS” (Jesus), has the same name as a gun that was at the Presidio of Monterey and is likely to be that gun, but the origin of the other five has not been ascertained. They may have come from any of the presidios in Alta California. The gun at the Washington Navy Yard was marked as having been taken in a war with the Barbary pirates in the Mediterranean, 1801–1805 and 1815, and also as having been captured from the Confederates at Norfolk, Virginia, in 1862, i.e., it was at the Norfolk Navy Yard in 1861 when the Confederates captured that facility, and was still there when the Union forces recaptured it. It is not impossible that the gun came from a war with the Barbary pirates, but it seems improbable. The odds are that this is another Spanish bronze gun made in Peru and seized in California in 1847, for which the provenance has been lost. Contributed by Historian Gordon Chappell, NPS.
4. Chief of Engineers Joseph G. Totten in Thompson, *Fortifications*, p. 44.
5. Thompson, *Fortifications*, pp. 27–28, 31, and 40.
6. *Ibid.*, pp. 62–63; Bearss, *Fort Point*, pp. 184–187. The fort at Fort Point never received an official name. Over the years it came to be called simply Fort Point.
7. Thompson, *Fortifications*, p. 73. In 1994 two 10-inch Rodman guns from Fort Point were displayed at Pershing Square, main post.
8. *Ibid.*, pp. 81, 86, and 95. Neither battery received a formal name.

9. Commanding officer, PSF, January 20, 1891, to Department of California, Register of Letters Received; Orders 166, July 12, 1891, Post Orders 1891-1892, PSF, both in RG 393, NA.
10. W. Graham, May 22, 1890, to War Department; April 22, 1891, to chief of ordnance; and April 21 and May 6, 1896, to Department of California; C. A. Jenks, April 18, 1895, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received; W. Shafter, December 5, 1896, to C. R. Sutter, PSF, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA; Thompson, *Fortifications*, p. 137.
11. Graham, August 28, 1890, to Department of California, Letters Sent, PSF, RG 393, NA.
12. Thompson, *Fortifications*, p. 96. The magazines destroyed were broken up and embedded in the new concrete work.
13. *Ibid.*, pp. 141, 144, 146, and 154; Assistant adjutant general, Department of California, September 19, 1895, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received, PSF, RG 393, NA.
14. Thompson, *Fortifications*, p. 157.
15. *Ibid.*, pp. 158-164; C. R. Sutter, May 9, 1898, to chief of engineers, General Correspondence 1894-1923, OCE, RG 77, OCE.
16. Battery Howe, originally sixteen 12-inch mortars, was divided, one part retaining the name Howe, the other becoming Battery Arthur Wagner. Similarly the mortar battery Stotsenberg was divided, one half becoming Battery William McKinnon.
17. The battery names:

Lancaster. For Lt. Col. James M. Lancaster, 3d Artillery, who died at Fort Monroe, Virginia, in 1900. Graduate of West Point. Fought in Civil War.

Cranston. for Lt. Arthur Cranston, 4th Artillery, killed in action in the Modoc War. Stationed at the Presidio when the Modoc War began.

Marcus Miller. For Brig. Gen. Marcus Miller, Artillery. Commanding officer of the Presidio in 1898. West Point graduate. Civil, Modoc, and Nez Perce wars.

Boutelle. For Lt. Henry M. Boutelle, 3d Artillery. Killed in action in the Philippines, 1899.

Godfrey. For Capt. George J. Godfrey, 22d Infantry. Killed in action in the Philippines, 1899.

Saffold. For Capt. Marion M. Saffold, 13th Infantry. Killed in action in the Philippines, 1899.

Crosby. For Lt. Franklin B. Crosby, 4th Artillery. Killed in action at Chancellorsville, Virginia, 1863.

Chamberlin. For Capt. Lowell A. Chamberlin, 1st Artillery. Civil War. Stationed at the Presidio at the time of his death, 1889.

Baldwin. For Lt. Henry M. Baldwin, 5th Artillery. Died of wounds, Cedar Creek, Virginia, 1864.

Sherwood. For Lt. Walter Sherwood, 7th Infantry. Killed in action in battle with Seminole Indians, Florida, 1840.

Slaughter. For Lt. William A. Slaughter, 4th Infantry. Killed in action by White River Indians, Washington Territory, 1855.

Blaney. For Lt. Daniel Blaney, 3d Artillery. Killed in action by British forces, Fort Oswego, New York, 1814.

Howe. For Col. Albion P. Howe, 4th Artillery. Mexican and Civil wars. Commanding officer of the Presidio in 1877. Died 1897.

Arthur Wagner. For Col. Arthur L. Wagner. Spanish-American War. Military writer and professor.

Stotsenberg. For Capt. John M. Stotsenberg, 6th Cavalry. Killed in action in the Philippines, 1899.

William McKinnon. For Chaplain William D. McKinnon, 3d Cavalry. Spanish-American War and Filipino Insurrection. Died 1902.

Thompson, *Fortifications*, pp. 200–205.

18. Department of California, April 11, 1898, to commanding officer, PSF, Register of Letters Received, PSF, RG 393, NA; Thompson, *Fortifications*, pp. 172 and 197. The Presidio commanding officer recommended burying any 15-inch Rodmans that did not sell.

19. G. Pillsbury, Operations Report, November 1900, Letterbooks 1896–1902, OCE, RG 77; Special Orders 240, October 12, 1903, Post Orders, PSF, RG 393, NA; Thompson, *Fortifications*, pp. 218–219.

20. Thompson, *Fortifications*, pp. 122–123, 126, 174–175, 227–229, 251, and 275.

21. C. E. Davis, February 24, 1900, to chief of engineers, OCE, RG 77; J. B. Rawles, August 25, 1902, to Department of California, Letters Sent, PSF, RG 393, NA; Johnson, "Electric Lighting, *U.S. Artillery*, 36:44. In the 1970s the building served as a classroom.

22. Thompson, *Fortifications*, p. 164.

23. C. H. McKinstry, May 8, 1906, to chief of engineers, OCE, RG 77; Special Orders 83, April 15, 1909, and Special Orders 99, May 5, 1909, Post Orders, PSF, RG 393, NA.

24. Thompson, *Fortifications*, pp. 264, 277, and 280. Battery Sherwood's two 5-inch guns and Blaney's four 15-pounders had also been removed by this time.

25. *Ibid.*, pp. 286–288; Quartermaster Completion Reports 1917–1918, Fort Winfield Scott, OQMG, RG 92, NA; War Department, *Annual Reports* 1920, 1: 1484 and 1572.

26. Historical Outline Information, June 1973, Master Plans, PSF; Thompson, *Fortifications*, pp. 289–291.

27. The author had thought this to be the concrete structure 1344 located south of the West Coast World War II Memorial on Washington Boulevard. Recent information identifies this structure as a Battery Saffold fire control station.

28. Naming conventions for stations are discussed in Appendix B under "artillery fire control station" and "mining casemate."

29. Thompson, *Fortifications*, pp. 317–321 and 330–342.

30. *Ibid.*, pp. 71 and 374; Map, Fort Winfield Scott, September 15, 1943. Notes were made from the map 20 years ago. The map was not available for this study.

31. Special Projects, Harbor Defense, San Francisco, Annex B, Adjutant General's Office, RG 407, NA.

32. *Ibid.*, Annex F.

33. J. L. DeWitt, October 17, 1942, and associated correspondence, Harbor Defense Files, OCE, RG 77, NA.

34. Annex A, Supplement to Harbor Defense Project, 1945, RG 407, NA. A copy of the lengthy boundary description was on file in Master Plans Office, PSF.

35. Feeder Data/Reading Files, Master Plans, PSF; Thompson, *Fortifications*, pp. 390 and 409–410.

36. It was not common to give names to Nike missile batteries, and Battery Caulfield may have been the only one so named in the nation. Col Milton B. Halsey, Jr., to Gordon Chappell, National Park Service, August 1990.

CHAPTER 17. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FORT WINFIELD SCOTT

In 1912 the U.S. Army realized a dream that had been in the making for at least the past 20 years — a coast artillery post to guard San Francisco Bay. In 1882 the War Department had named the masonry fort at Fort Point and a scattering of wood-frame barracks, quarters, and shops in its vicinity Fort Winfield Scott in honor of the deceased Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott, general in chief of the U.S. Army from 1841 to 1861. The lieutenant general had visited San Francisco in 1858 at the height of the international boundary controversy concerning the United States and British North America over the San Juan Islands. The orders establishing the fort did not set physical boundaries to separate it from the Presidio of San Francisco and the Presidio's post headquarters continued to administer the area. Troops had occupied Fort Point during the Civil War and from time to time thereafter. The last company to occupy the masonry fort made a hasty evacuation on the morning of the 1906 Earthquake. Fort Point, as it was generally called, was deemed unsafe for occupancy thereafter.¹

Beginning in the 1890s the Corps of Engineers began a massive construction project to modernize the coastal defenses of San Francisco. The Presidio headlands became armed with mighty concrete emplacements for both guns and breech-loading mortars. In 1901, Congress established the Artillery Corps, consisting of 30 batteries of field artillery and 126 companies of Coast Artillery. As the Presidio's modern coastal defenses became operational, the number of coast artillery companies at the post increased. While the Presidio's infrastructure expanded to accommodate the growing garrison, it quickly became apparent that a major change was necessary. Not only had the coast artillery men been compelled to march 1 1/2 miles one way to reach their batteries, higher authority had decided that the reservation should be divided with an infantry post in the east and an artillery post in the west.

A half-hearted beginning occurred in 1902 with the construction of two sets of officers' quarters (a single [1302] and a duplex [1304]) and a barracks [682], all wood-frame structures, west of the national cemetery. Funds for additional construction were diverted to other, more urgent programs following the 1906 Earthquake. Artillery reorganization in 1907 completely separated the field and coast artillery and the Coast Artillery Corps (CAC) was born. Each company's strength increased from 65 to 95 men, and later to 105. The pressure to create a separate post intensified.



Above: Kobbe Avenue entrance to Fort Winfield Scott, off Park Boulevard, built in 1932. The concrete pedestals have bronze entrance signs. The Rodman guns were removed in December 1943 during a World War II scrap drive. *Quartermaster Building Record Books, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Below: Officers' quarters on Kobbe Avenue, Fort Winfield Scott. The two residences on the left, 1302 and 1304, were built in 1902. The two on the right, 1308 and 1310, were constructed in 1909. View toward the south. *NPS photograph by Jet Lowe, September 1981.*





Noncommissioned officers' quarters, 1261, on Ruckman Avenue, Fort Winfield Scott. Constructed 1909. NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, June 1990.

In 1906 a crude temporary barracks for one Coast Artillery company had been erected on the bluff above Fort Point. An inspector general described it as shingled on the exterior but unfinished on the interior. A toilet and washroom stood nearby, but the occupying soldiers went without showers. Then, in April 1909, the chief of Coast Artillery reminded the quartermaster general that Fort Winfield Scott's construction should be provided for in the next appropriations bill. Conditions at the Presidio had become very crowded, and some of the Coast Artillerymen lived in tents. Congress passed an appropriation, and a map prepared in September 1909 showed a general layout of the proposed post and indicated that construction had begun.²

Construction completed in 1909 included:

Three sets of officers' quarters (a single [1300], a quadraplex [1308], and a duplex [1310]) bracketing the 1902 sets, all five standing toward the east end of today's Kobbé Avenue.

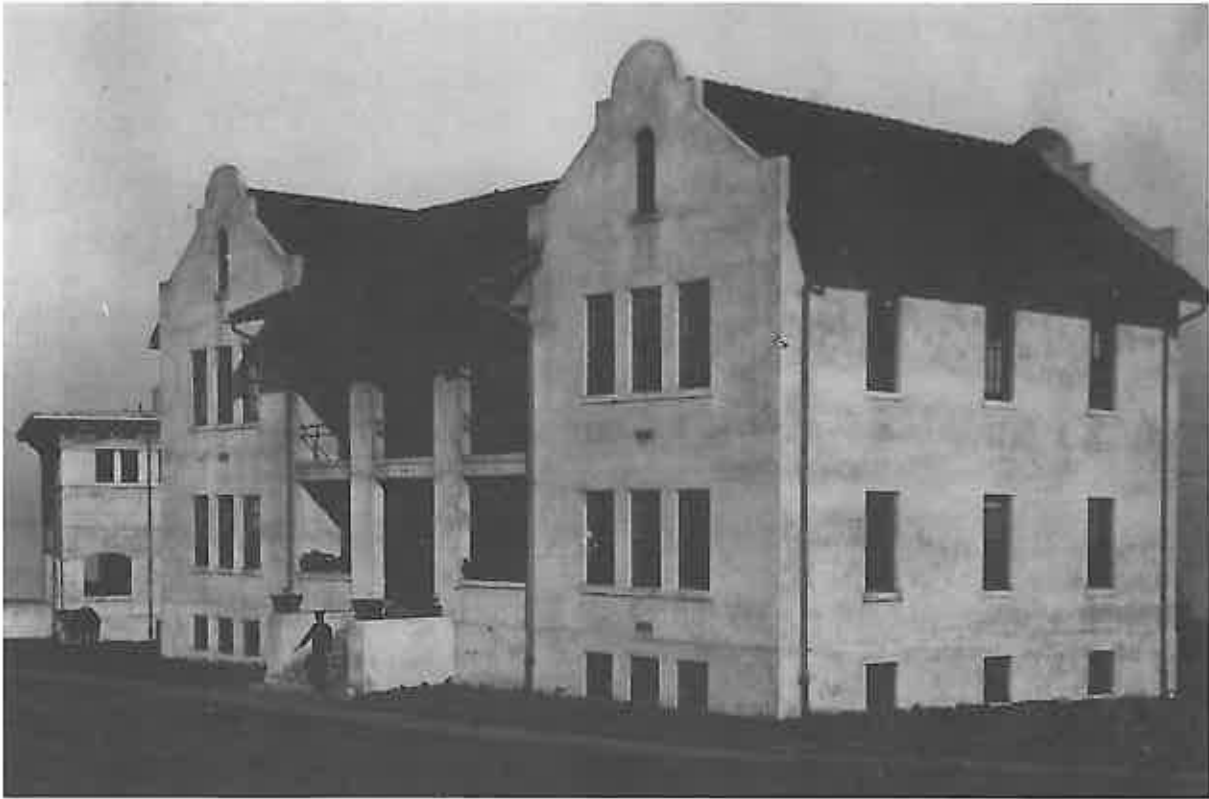


New barracks at Fort Winfield Scott, left to right: 1205, 1206, 1207 and 1208, built 1908-1912. These provided housing for Coast Artillery Corps enlisted men. View to the southwest. Photograph circa 1912. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Four sets of quarters for noncommissioned officers [1261, 1262, 1265, and 1268] about 800 feet east of the future parade ground.

Also under construction, three barracks buildings [1206, 1207, and 1208] graced the west side of the future parade, but these were not completed until 1910. A 1909 map showed the 1902 barracks [682] becoming a post hospital, although this was not to be.³

Construction continued in 1910, and work included three additional barracks [1216, 1217, and 1218]; a quartermaster storehouse [1219]; and six sets of officers' quarters (a single [1314], a duplex [1320], a single [1322], a duplex [1324], a duplex [1326], and a duplex [1328]) extending westward along Kobbe Avenue. While construction slowed in 1911, the construction quartermaster completed two additional barracks [1202 and 1203] on the west side of the parade, and a combination post exchange and gymnasium [1226] east of the parade in what would



Above: Band barracks, 1214, Fort Winfield Scott. Stockade is on the far left. Circa 1939 view toward the south-east. *Presidio Museum Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Below: Post guardhouse or "stockade," 1213, circa 1930. Note the ornate light pole on the left. View toward the west. *Presidio Museum Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

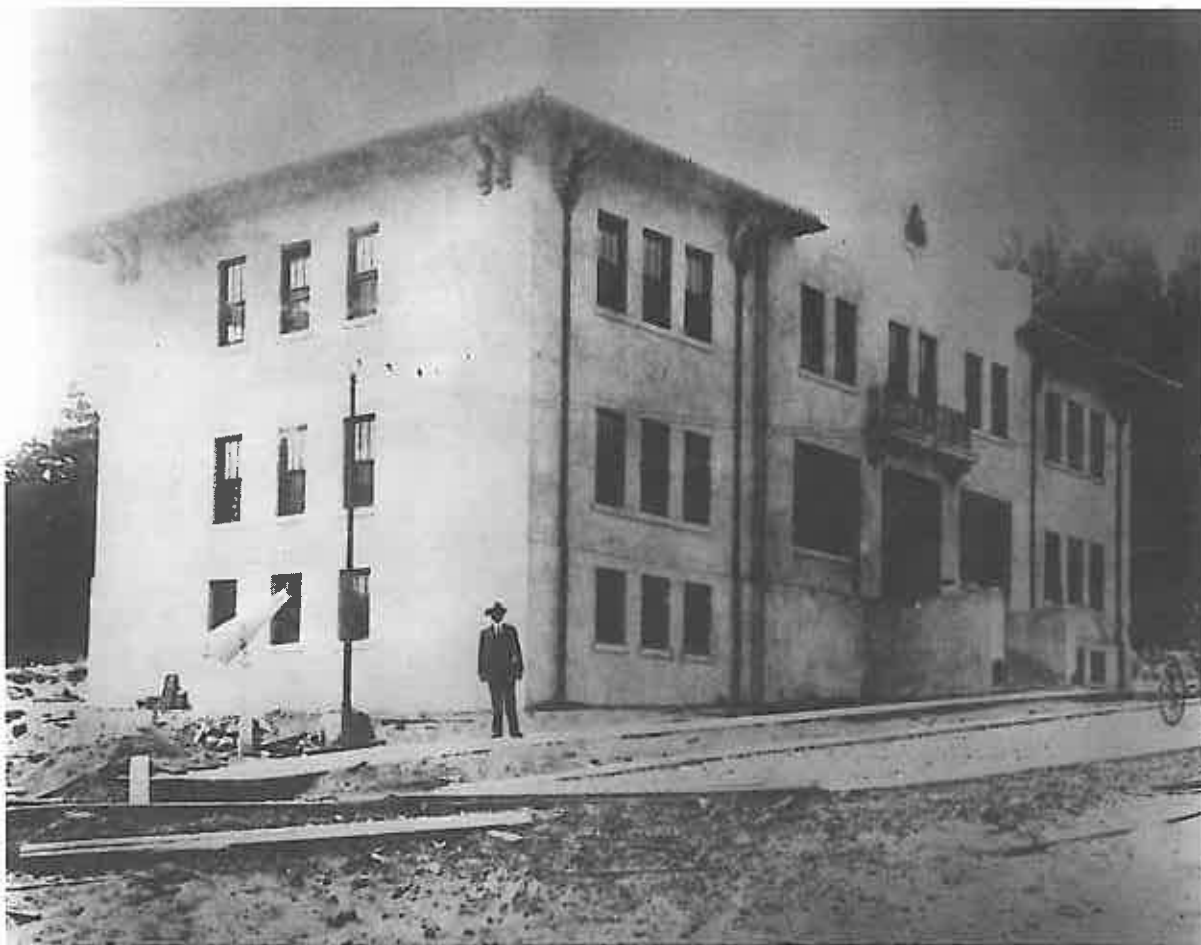


become an industrial area. The new fort essentially reached completion in 1912. New construction included the imposing headquarters building [1201], two more barracks [1204 and 1205] also west of the parade, the guardhouse (later called the stockade [1213]), an infirmary [1224], three additional sets of noncommissioned officers' quarters [1272, 1273, and 1274], and one more officers' quarters (a quadraplex [1334]) at the west end of officers' row.

The handsome buildings of the post proper stood on a plateau east of the concrete batteries. They ranged around the horseshoe-shaped parade ground [1223]. The 1907 proposals by Harts, Devol, and others to depart from traditional army architecture and adopt the Mission Revival style was realized at Fort Scott's main post. The buildings around the parade ground were designed in a most pleasing, mostly stucco-covered concrete, Mission Revival architecture adapted to military use. The precept established here was followed throughout the Presidio military reservation in future years. (It is not known if the Army accepted Major Harts' recommendation to employ civilian architects at this time.) Officers' row on Kobbe Avenue, however, was built from standard army plans. The residences possessed a mixture of Mediterranean Revival style (cream-colored stuccoed walls, tiled roofs, and entrance porticos having wrought-iron railings) and a Colonial Revival style (brick walls, dormers, a variety of porches, and some tiled roofs). Kobbe Avenue acquired two additional sets of quarters in 1915 — a bachelor officers' quarters (Barnard Hall [1330]) and quarters for the commanding officer [1337] on the north side of the avenue.

The coast artillery companies began occupying the new quarters as they were completed, some as early as 1910. Most of the troops, however, moved to the area in May and early June 1912. When the post became fully occupied in 1912, the complement stood at 11 companies but only 10 barracks buildings lined the parade. Consequently, one company continued to occupy the temporary barracks on the Fort Point headlands until the post's strength was reduced.⁴

Electricity for the new post became a matter of discussion as early as 1910. That year the Engineer Department decided on a central power plant to supply electricity to all the Presidio's coastal defenses — the batteries, fire control stations, searchlights, etc. The building that had supplied power for the old dynamite guns had been destroyed in the 1906 Earthquake. The engineers decided to reconstruct the building [building 1398]. It contained a boiler room, engine room, shop, storeroom, and lavatory. By the spring of 1910, the equipment was in place:



Fort Winfield Scott headquarters building, 1201, under construction, circa 1910. Note the bugler's megaphone at left. East and north elevations. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

Two 200 horsepower Keeler, water tube boilers
Two Buffalo Forge, single-cylinder, noncondensing steam engines.
Two 100 KW, DC Western Electric generators.
One 4-panel Walker Electric switchboard (still in place in 1994)
Two oil storage tanks.

The engineers also installed new wiring throughout the system, and a few of the batteries continued to maintain standby generators for emergencies. The question arose as to whether the central power plant could also supply power to the post. An investigation disclosed an earlier regulation: "The current from the fortification plants, when not needed for fortification service, may be used for garrison [purposes]." One of the engineers, noting that all fortification wiring had been placed underground, recommended the same for the post: "In my opinion the furnishing of post lights [by the central plant] would be advantageous, as the plant



Above: Bachelor officers' quarters, 1330, on Kobbe Avenue, built in 1915. This building was later named Barnard Hall. View toward the southwest. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, July 1990.*

Below: Fort Winfield Scott, circa 1914. Artillerymen in front of barracks. *Presidio Museum Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*





Above: Duplex officers' quarters, 1328, Kobbe Avenue, Fort Winfield Scott, built 1910. Northwest elevation. NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, March 1991.

Below: Officers' quarters, 1334, four apartments, on Kobbe Avenue, built 1912. East and north elevations. NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, March 1991.



would be kept ready for service at all times." The system, however, turned out differently. By 1912 commercial electricity had extended throughout both the Presidio of San Francisco and Fort Winfield Scott.⁵

On February 16, 1912, the Army's adjutant general addressed a letter to the commanding general, Western Division, San Francisco:

The Secretary of War directs that as soon as the new barracks at Fort Winfield Scott, California, are ready for occupancy, that the post be established as an independent coast artillery post, and that the headquarters of the Artillery District of San Francisco be located there. Fort Winfield Scott will, however, be a sub-post of the Presidio of San Francisco for the purpose of obtaining quartermaster's and subsistence supplies.⁶

The great day came on June 19, 1912:

Fort Winfield Scott, California, garrisoned by the 3d Band, Coast Artillery Corps, the 10th, 13th, 27th, 29th, 38th, 57th, 60th, 64th, 65th, 67th, 147th, and 158th Companies, Coast Artillery Corps, was established an Independent Post from the Presidio of San Francisco, California, at 12:00 o'clock noon, on the 19th day of June 1912, per General Orders No. 11, Western Division dated June 18th, 1912.

The new post's first general orders appointed Col. John P. Wisser as the commanding officer.⁷

The *San Francisco Call* headline read "Two Army Posts Now In Presidio." The article continued, "The new quarters are among the most elaborate and modern in the United States, and when the landscape features are completed, Fort Winfield Scott will be the finest, as it is already the most beautifully located, army post in the country."⁸

Any celebrations must have been muted a few days later by the publication of Special Orders appointing a board of officers to investigate the death by drowning of a private belonging to the 158th Company. The fort swiftly settled down to business with the publication of General Orders announcing the service and roll calls:

| | Summer | Winter |
|---|------------|-------------------|
| First Call | 5:45 A.M. | 6:30 A.M. |
| Reveille | 5:55 | 6:40 |
| Assembly | 6:00 | 6:45 |
| Setting up exercises | 6:00 | 6:45 |
| Recall | 6:15 | 7:00 |
| Mess Call | 6:20 | 7:05 |
| Sick Call | 7:00 | 7:30 |
| Fatigue Call | 7:30 | |
| Drill, CAC, First Call | 8:15 | |
| Assembly | 8:25 | |
| Recall, Drill, CAC | 10:00 | |
| Drill, Infantry, First Call | 10:30 | |
| Assembly | 10:40 | |
| Recall | 11:30 | |
| Guard Mounting, First Call | 11:15 | |
| Assembly | 11:20 | |
| Officers' Call | 11:40 | |
| First Sergeant's Call | 11:45 | |
| Officers' School (during school term) | 11:45 | |
| Mess Call | 12:00 A.M. | |
| Recruit Drill, First Call | 12:50 A.M. | |
| Assembly | 12:59 | |
| Fatigue Call | 1:00 | |
| Recall, Recruit Drill | 2:00 | |
| Recall, Fatigue | 4:30 | |
| Mess Call | 5:00 | |
| Retreat, First Call | 5:25 | 4:30 |
| Assembly | 5:35 | 4:40 |
| School Call, Enlisted Men | 5:50 | |
| Tattoo | 9:00 | |
| Call to Quarters | 10:45 | |
| Taps | 11:00 | |
| Thursdays | | |
| Signal Drill, First Aid Instruction, First Call | 8:35 A.M. | |
| Assembly | | 8:45 |
| Recall | | 9:30 ⁹ |

A day later post headquarters published the 14-page Guard Orders. Among the highlights of the extensive orders:

Guards issued five blank cartridges and five "guard" cartridges each.

Cameras not allowed without a permit.

No boys or civilians allowed in or around government buildings.

On sighting a warship, the Commander of the Guard reported it to the Officer of the Day and the Post Adjutant. If a foreign warship, its nationality was reported.

Automobiles — 10 miles per hour limit (6 miles on curves).

It then listed the 15 guard posts:

1. The walk in front of the guardhouse (later called stockade)
2. Cell room of guardhouse around the cages
3. Supernumerary post, guardhouse
4. Batteries Godfrey and Boutelle
5. Batteries Marcus Miller and Lancaster
6. Battery Cranston and (via lighthouse bridge) old Fort Point
7. Dynamite Battery area
8. Battery Saffold to Officers' Quarters [building 1334]
9. Rob Hill area
10. Battery Chamberlin and Mining Casemate
11. Batteries McKinnon and Stotsenberg
12. Officers' Row
13. Wharf and Mine Depot
14. Batteries Blaney, Slaughter, Sherwood, and Baldwin
15. Roving Patrol¹⁰

Colonel Wisser and his successors set about to improve the new post further. The Signal Corps installed a complete post telephone system. In September a 2-kilowatt radio station began military operation. The Army invested considerable time in planning the beautification of the area. A board of officers presented its proceedings in July:

That the horseshoe area between the barracks and the guardhouse be graded for a general service parade and that the surface be oiled and sanded similar to the upper parade ground at the Presidio. A grass parade would be too costly — water and gophers.

That the field outside the barracks-horseshoe (to the north) be graded and improved as a drill ground. Seeded.

That suitable lawns be provided in front of Officers' Row.

That the ground in rear of and between the several barracks and other buildings be made into lawns.



Above: Coast Artillery Corps, Fort Winfield Scott, on a "hike." Possibly October 24, 1914. Note Army escort wagons. *National Park Service.*

Below: "Coast Artillery Corps leaving Fort Winfield Scott on a hike," 1914. Today, the Golden Gate Bridge would dominate background center of this view. *National Park Service.*





Coast Artillery troops on parade at Fort Winfield Scott's parade ground, circa 1930s. In 1938, the garrison consisted of three batteries of the Sixth Coast Artillery. From left to right: the administration building, 1201, barracks 1202, and barracks 1203. *Presidio Army Museum Photographic Collection Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS.*

That the space fifty feet in front of the barracks and other buildings facing the parade be planted in lawn and enclosed by a hedge of red geraniums.

That flowers be planted closer to the barracks.

That flowers be planted in the yards of officers' quarters.

That a nursery be carefully maintained and replenished with fresh slips as plants are removed.¹¹

That a row of eucalyptus be set out around the parade ground opposite the intervals between the buildings — about thirty feet in front of the line of lawns.

That acacia and other low-growing trees and shrubs be planted to protect the eroded ground near the road at the north end of the drill ground, but not to obstruct the view of the bay.

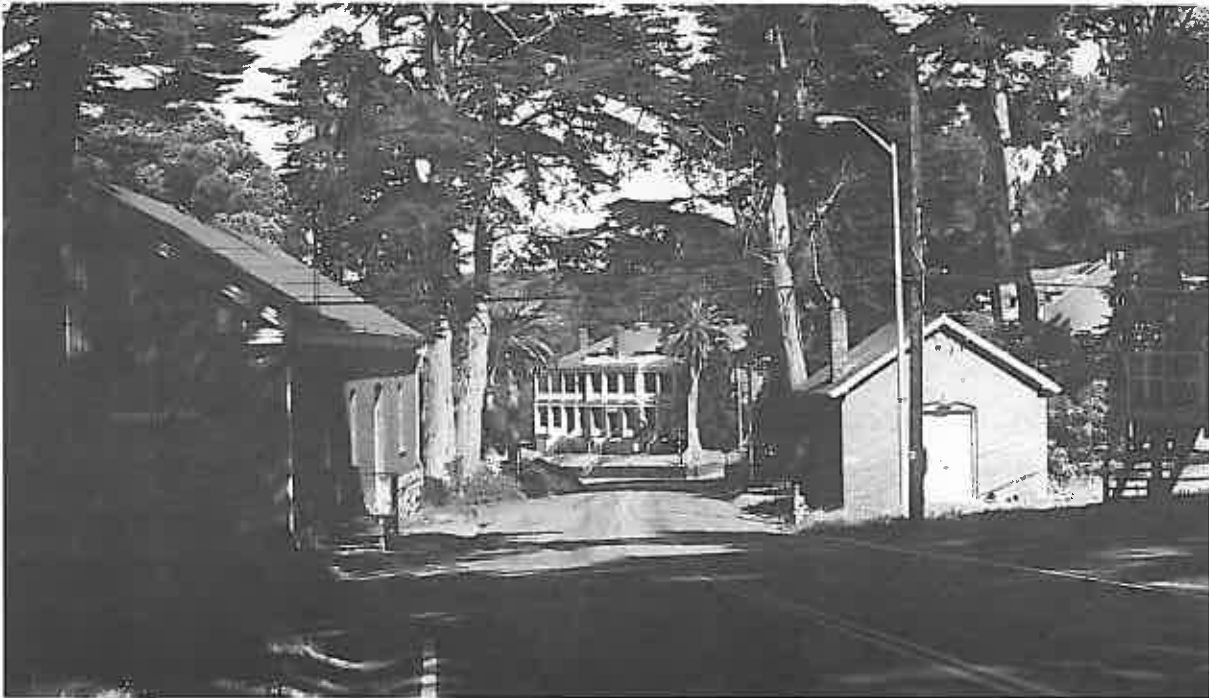
That a line of eucalyptus trees be continued up McDowell Avenue (Lincoln Boulevard) to protect the drill ground from westerly winds.

That the triangular space between McDowell Avenue and the western line of barracks be a lawn with flower beds and separated from the road by a hedge of daisies.



Above: Officers' row on Kobbe Avenue, Fort Winfield Scott. Duplexes from left: 1322, 1324, 1326 and 1328. View toward the northeast. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, July 1990.*

Below: Kobbe Avenue storehouses, Fort Winfield Scott. From left: ordinance repair shop, 1339; Barnard Hall, 1330 (residence); storage, 1338; officers' quarters, 1334 (through the trees); and ordinance storage, 1340 (corner visible). View toward the east-southeast. *NPS photograph by Gordon Chappell, July 1990.*



That the trees in front of Officers' Row be thinned out to provide a view of the bay and that these trees be cleaned up to form a park grove.¹²

When forwarding the board's proceedings, the commanding officer, Maj. William C. Davis, wrote that the post was formally organized as an independent command on June 19, it having been established in the new administration building that day. Concerning the officers' quarters, he wrote that they stood high above the road in front, making the delivery of coal and the removal of garbage awkward. Also, because the houses were built on a steep slope, there were deep excavations in the rear that would become a sea of mud in the rainy season. He recommended construction of a paved service road 15 feet wide. He also believed that concrete sidewalks were needed in front of both the officers' and the noncommissioned officers' quarters.¹³

Major Davis published general orders soliciting the cooperation of everyone to improve and beautify the post. He too stressed its magnificent location and its diversified landscape with trees, ravines, and cliffs. All kinds of plants and flowers could grow year round. Fort Winfield Scott could become one of the most attractive places in the world. By the following spring, another board of officers reported on the work in progress — clearing woods, hauling away brush, rebuilding roads with rock from the Rob Hill quarry, improving lawns, and cultivating gardens and the plant nursery.

A memorandum drew attention to the animals kept on the post: hog pens were to be thoroughly policed; cow stables near the barracks were to be removed; new stables were to be whitewashed; only well-cured manure was to be used as fertilizer; and cows testing positive for tuberculosis were to be destroyed.¹⁴

The post's strength in these early years stood at 30 officers and 950 enlisted men. Noncommissioned officers on the staff included a sergeant major, senior grade; a sergeant major, junior grade; four ordnance sergeants; three master electricians; four electrical sergeants, 1st class; an electrical sergeant, 2d class; four master gunners; and a fireman. In September 1912, general orders announced the retirement of Ordnance Sgt. Richard Ulex after more than 31 years of continuous service since 1881. In addition to troop duty, the officers had additional assignments: recruiting officer, post artillery engineer, district artillery engineer, post librarian, post ordnance officer, district ordnance officer, signal officer, prison and police officer, fire marshal, and post exchange officer. Also, a post surgeon had charge of the infirmary.¹⁵



Fort Winfield Scott. Troop formation near the base of the flagstaff and the salute gun, circa 1918. *National Park Service.*

In July 1913, Secretary of War Lindley M. Garrison, accompanied by the Army Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, and Quartermaster General Maj. Gen. James B. Aleshire, visited the fort. Early Coast Artillery Corps commanding officers of note included Col. John P. Wisser, also commander of the Pacific Coast Artillery District; Col. Richmond P. Davis, for whom the great 16-inch gun battery at Fort Funston was named; Col. John P. Haines, whose uniforms and equipment were presented to the Presidio Army Museum; and Col. William F. Hase, for whom the artillery post Fort Hase in Hawaii was named.¹⁶

Parades, inspections, and holiday observances quickly became part of the fort's routine. On Memorial Day 1913, the flag remained at half-staff from sunrise to 12 noon. At noon the band played, Battery Blaney fired the national salute, and soldiers raised the flag to the top of the staff. A month later the 10 companies organized into two battalions for the purpose of infantry drill, parade, muster, and inspection. In July a detail fired a salute to the Peruvian flag from the post's two 6-pounder guns as Peru selected a site for its exposition building. Fort Winfield Scott, with its magnificent setting and outstanding architecture, had become a permanent, important part of the United States' Pacific coastal defenses.¹⁷

Chapter 17 Notes:

1. War Department, General Orders 133, November 25, 1882. In 1914 the masonry fort was remodeled for military prison purposes but it never served as such.
2. C. J. Baily, April 10, 1909, to quartermaster general; R. R. Stevens, June 28, 1909, to Department of California, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.
3. Map, "Fort Winfield Scott, California," 1909, Blueprint File, RG 92, NA. This map differs from the fort as it was constructed.
4. Fort Winfield Scott, Post Returns, June 1912.
5. J. C. Johnson, "The Electric Lighting and Power Plant for Fortification and Fire Control Purposes, Fort Winfield Scott," *Journal of the U.S. Artillery* (1911), 36:44; J. Biddle, January 31, 1910, to chief of engineers, San Francisco District, and March 21, 1910, to J. A. Lundeen, Letterbooks 1909-1910, OCE, RG 77, NA.
6. About the same time that the War Department announced that Fort Winfield Scott would house the Headquarters, Artillery District of San Francisco, it said that Fort Miley would have the Headquarters, Pacific Coast Artillery District, consisting of the coast defenses of San Diego, San Francisco, the Columbia, and Puget Sound. Also, Fort Miley became a subpost of Fort Winfield Scott. War Department, *Annual Report* 1913, 3:71.
7. Fort Winfield Scott, Post Returns, June 1912; and General Orders 1, June 20, 1912, RG 393, NA.
8. *The San Francisco Call*, June 18, 1912.
9. Fort Winfield Scott, General Orders 2, June 25, 1912, RG 393, NA.
10. Fort Winfield Scott, General Orders 3, June 26, 1912, RG 393, NA.
11. The nursery was constructed, it being the third on the reservation, Letterman and the Presidio having similar ones.
12. Proceedings of a Board of Offices, July 1, 1912, General Correspondence, 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.
13. W. C. Davis, July 15, 1912, to adjutant general, U.S. Army, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.
14. Memorandum 17, 1912; Memorandum 39, March 24, 1913; and General Orders 8, July 19, 1912, RG 393, NA.
15. Fort Winfield Scott, General Orders 13, September 23, 1912, RG 393; Post Returns, July and December 1912, NA.
16. File R-1, Commanders, Fort Winfield Scott, Master Plans, DEH, PSF.
17. Fort Winfield Scott, General Orders 20, May 28, and 25, June 18, 1913; Memorandum July 20, 1913, RG 393, NA.